福本伸行

AKAGI Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Kindai Mahjong Comics

第5巻

アカギ

闇に降り立った天才

狂瀾の闘牌

狂瀾の闘牌 5

福本伸行

TAKE

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闇に降り立った天才

近代麻雀コミックス●竹書房

福本伸行

アカギ

第5巻

赤木しげる

ニセアカギ

現在は川田組の代打ち　並外れた記憶力と雀力を持つ　詳細は不明

治

アカギと同じ工場で働いていた少年 アカギに憧れ込み、ついてきた

登場人物紹介

前巻までのあらすじ

昭和33年。生命を賭けたヤクザとの麻雀勝負に敗れつつあった南郷を助けた13歳の少年。彼こそ後に裏の麻雀界に君臨することになる赤木しげるであった。特に、盲目の雀士・市川を破った夜は、伝説と化した。しかし、直後に赤木は姿を消し、5年余りが経った。昭和39年。伝説の夜に立ち合った不良刑事・安岡は一計を案じ、ニセの赤木を代打ちとして川田組に売り込み、成功する。ところが、川田組幹部・石川は街中で本物の赤木を目撃。川田組長は、二人の赤木の対決を画策するが、対局途中であったニセアカギと藤沢組代打ち・浦部の勝負を一瞥した赤木は浦部の方が格上だと言い放つ。果たして、予言通り浦部は、どちらかがトップをとるまで終わらない倍プッシュ勝負へと強引に持ち込んだ!!

浦部

藤沢組の代打ち　凡庸を装って倍プッシュ勝負を画策したベテラン

川田組長(左)と石川

石川は伝説の夜に居合わせた一人　ニセアカギの真偽の判定もした

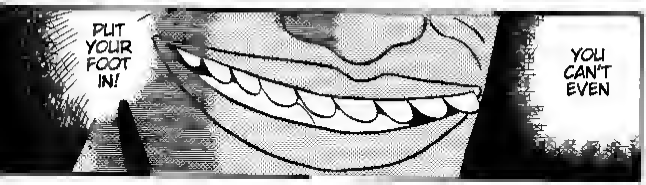
目次

◉別冊近代麻雀平成6年7月号～平成7年3月号所載

第37話 渓谷 7
第38話 一時 31
第39話 素人 55
第40話 布石 79
第41話 高波 103
第42話 封殺 127
第43話 絶無 151
第44話 偶機 175
第45話 容量 199

KU KU ...
KU KU KU ...

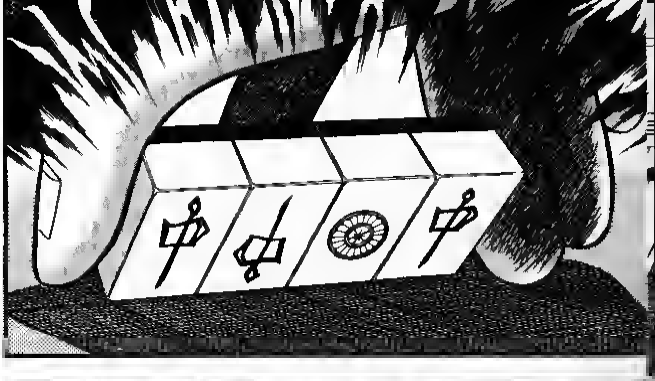
THAT 1000 IS A THORNY PATH...
BUT BRO...
IF YOU GET 1000 POINTS, YOU WIN ...
YES...

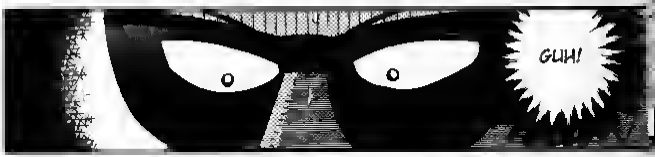

PUT YOUR FOOT IN!
YOU CAN'T EVEN

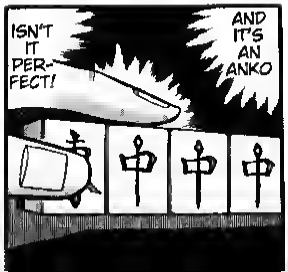
KEH...
...
KU KU KU ...
KU KU KU ...

CHAPTER 37: DALE

第37話 渓谷

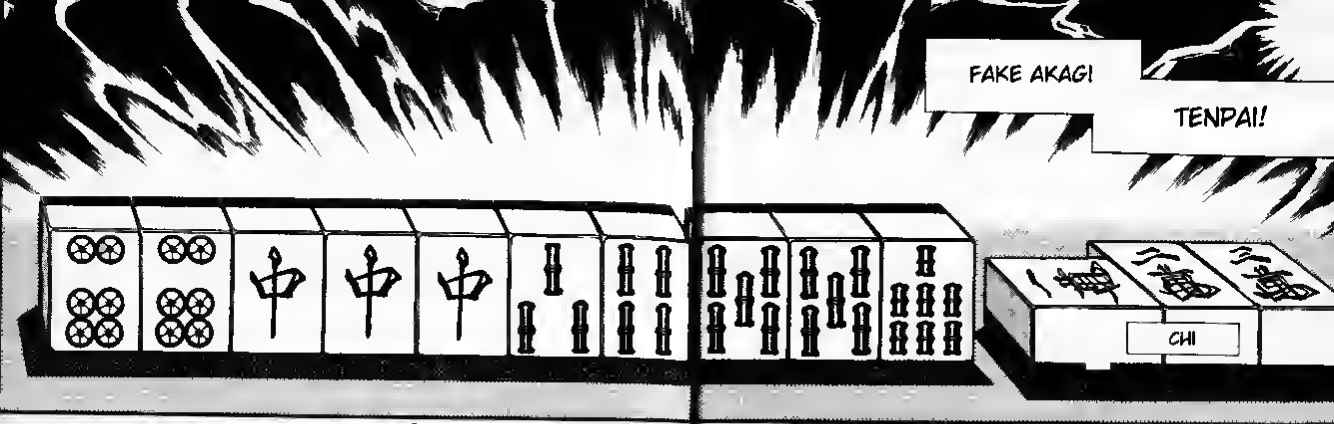






THE LAST TRUMP!

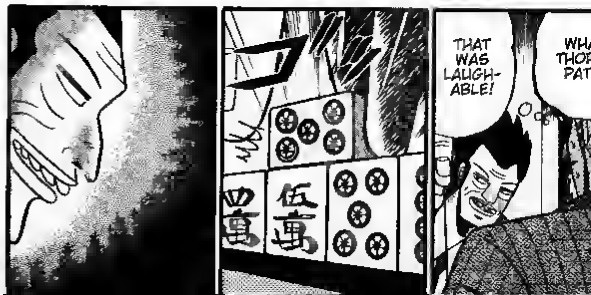
URABE IS WRONG!
...
MY DESTINY TO LIVE!
THIS IS MY FATE!
TOO BAD FOR YOU!
CHI!
10TH TURN
THE SHAPE DOESN'T MATTER
I OPENED FIRST!
I GOT IT!


FAKE AKAGI
TENPAI!
CHI

RIICHI!

KU KU KU...
EH?

I'VE GOT URABE!
BUT I'VE REACHED IT!
THE WAIT IS BAD
SINGL 6 SO WAIT.


THAT WAS LAUGH-ABLE!
WHA THOS PAT

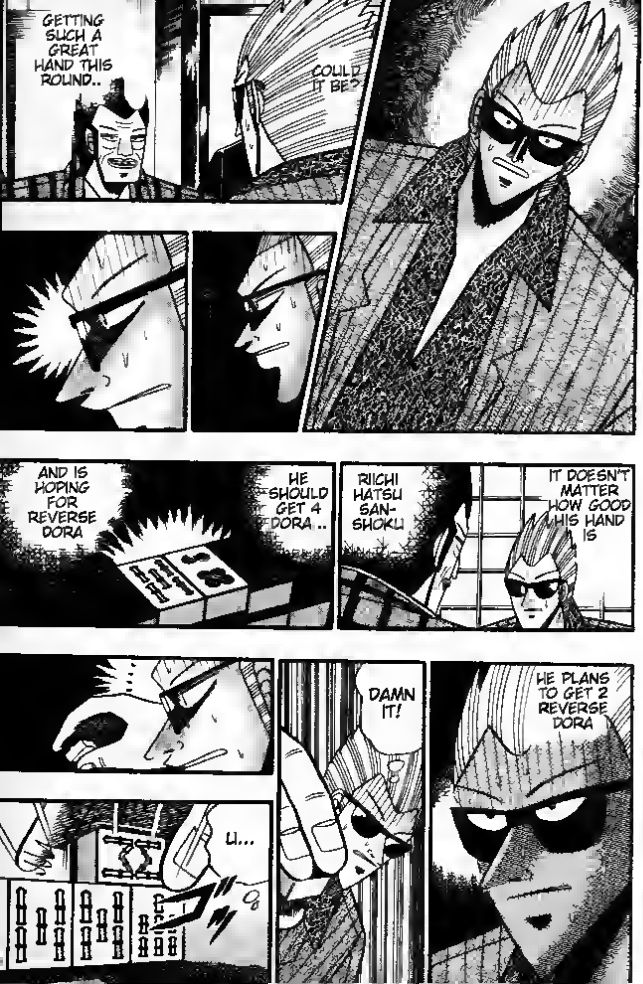
THIS GUY'S AIM IS BRING THE NEXT HANCHAN
BY SUPPORTING THE 2ND PLACE, OTA
WHAT'S WITH THE RIICHI?
ざわ…
…
ざわ…
AND EXTENDING THE MATCH WITH HIS OWN WIN
HE'S GIVING UP ON OTA
YET HE TOOK UP THE RIICHI
IF HE DECLARES A RIICHI, HE CAN'T DO THAT
ヒーン
THAT'S LOGICAL …
HE COULD ONLY DO THAT
HE PROBABLY NEEDED A HAN
HIS HAND IS SAFE…
…MEAN-ING…
KAN!
BUT NEXT TURN

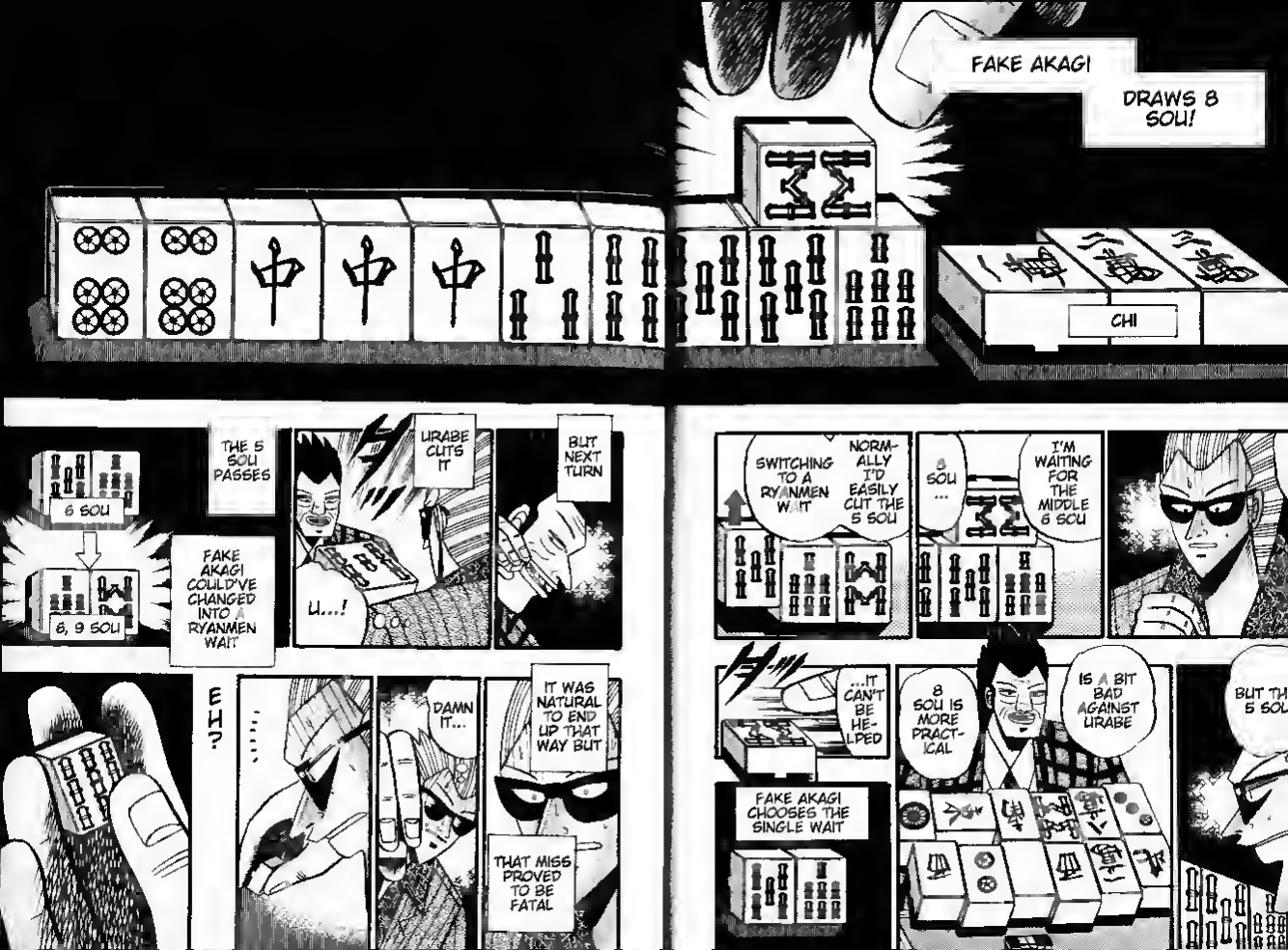
EH?
HIDDEN HATSU KAN!
URABE EXCEEDS FAKE AKAGI'S EXPECT-ATIONS!
IMPOSSIBLE!

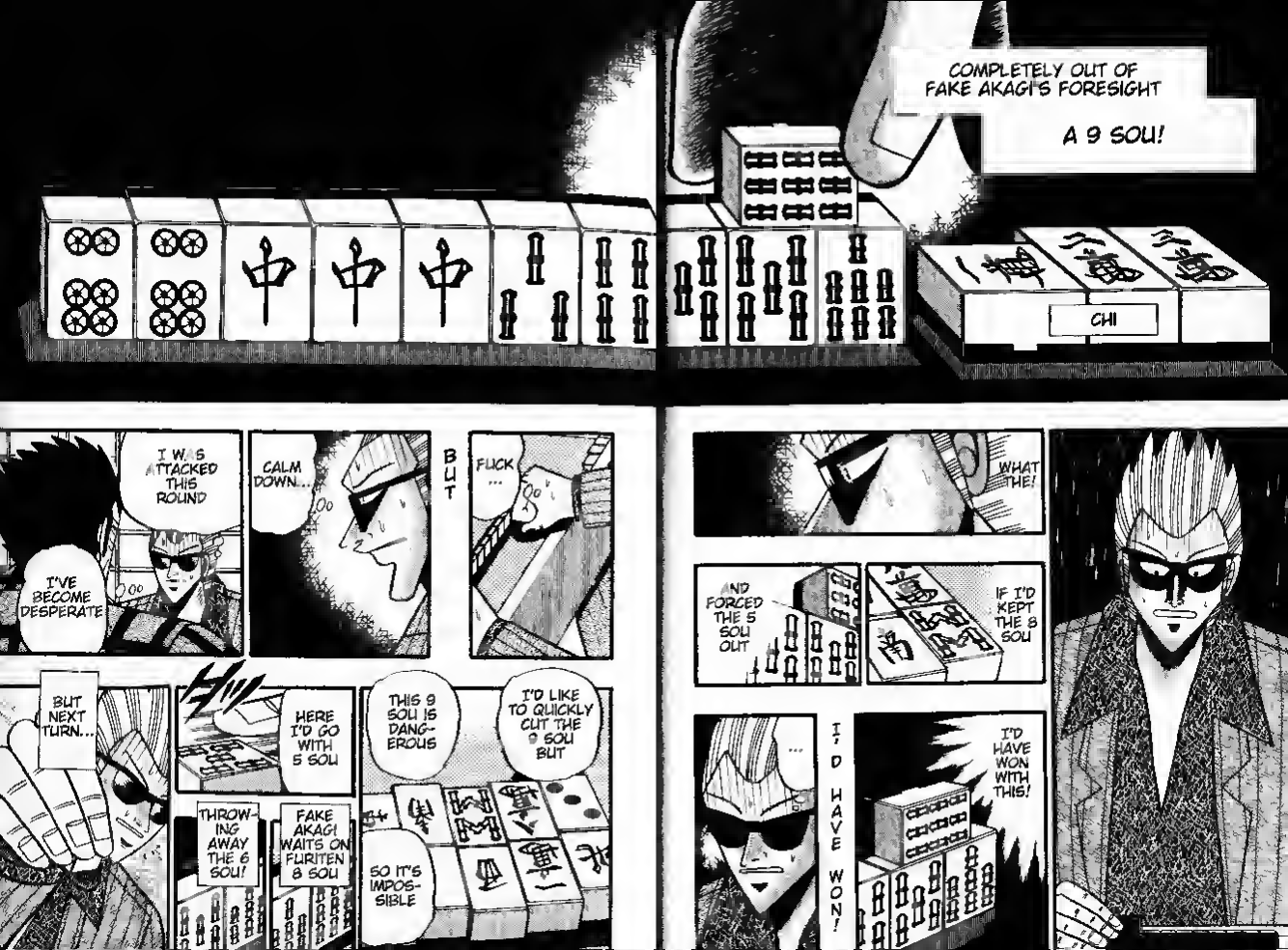
WHY DID HE
HAVING A HATSU TRIPLET IN HIS HAND
WHY?
A HIDDEN HATSU KAN
WHY?

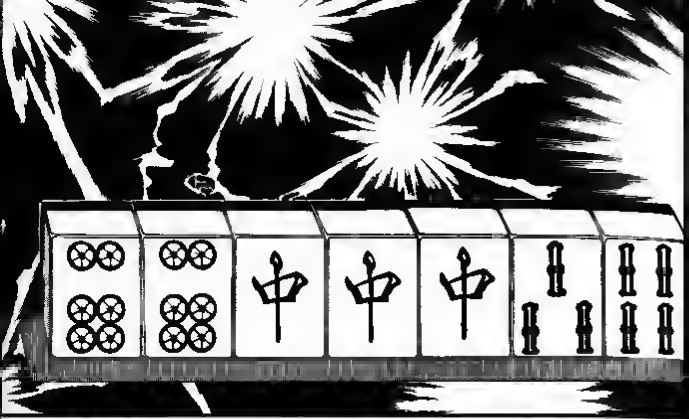
COULD IT BE
HOW HE'S TRYING TO STOP ME?
WAIT...
THE HATSU HAS ALREADY GIVEN HIM THE 1 HAN...
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT
DECLARE A RIICHI HERE?

HE CAN MAKE A DEALER UPSET WITH A HANEMAN
THE DIFFERENCE IS CURRENTLY 17500
THE UPSET HANEMAN!
DID HE REACH HANEMAN WITH THE RIICHI?
HIS AIM IS FOR AN UPSET!
MEANING
BUT HE ISN'T JUST TRYING TO END IT

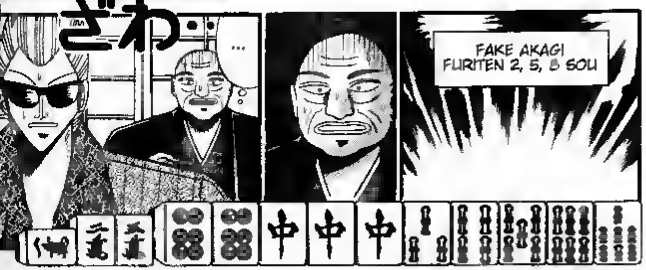

GETTING SUCH A GREAT HAND THIS ROUND..
COULD IT BE?
AND IS HOPING FOR REVERSE DORA
HE SHOULD GET 4 DORA ..
RICHI HATSU SAN-SHOKU
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD HIS HAND IS
U...
DAMN IT!
HE PLANS TO GET 2 REVERSE DORA


FAKE AKAGI DRAWS 8 SOU!
CHI
6 SOU
6, 9 SOU
THE 5 SOU PASSES
FAKE AKAGI COULD'VE CHANGED INTO A RYANMEN WAIT
URABE CUTS IT
U...!
BUT NEXT TURN
EH?
.....
DAMN IT...
IT WAS NATURAL TO END UP THAT WAY BUT
THAT MISS PROVED TO BE FATAL
SWITCHING TO A RYANMEN WAIT
NORMALLY I'D EASILY CUT THE 5 SOU
8 SOU ...
I'M WAITING FOR THE MIDDLE 6 SOU
...IT CAN'T BE HELPED
FAKE AKAGI CHOOSES THE SINGLE WAIT
8 SOU IS MORE PRACTICAL
IS A BIT BAD AGAINST URABE
BUT TH
5 SOU


COMPLETELY OUT OF FAKE AKAGI'S FORESIGHT
A 9 SOU!
CHI
I WAS ATTACKED THIS ROUND
I'VE BECOME DESPERATE
CALM DOWN...
BUT
FUCK...
BUT NEXT TURN...
HERE I'D GO WITH 5 SOU
THROWING AWAY THE 6 SOU!
FAKE AKAGI WAITS ON FURITEN 8 SOU
THIS 9 SOU IS DANGEROUS
I'D LIKE TO QUICKLY CUT THE 9 SOU BUT
SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
WHAT THE!
AND FORCED THE 5 SOU OUT
IF I'D KEPT THE 8 SOU
...
I'D HAVE WON!
I'D HAVE WON WITH THIS!


THIS TIME IT'S THE 6 SOU!
ONCE AGAIN HE MISSED!
CHI

EH?


ざわ
...
FAKE AKAGI FURITEN 2, 5, 8 SOU

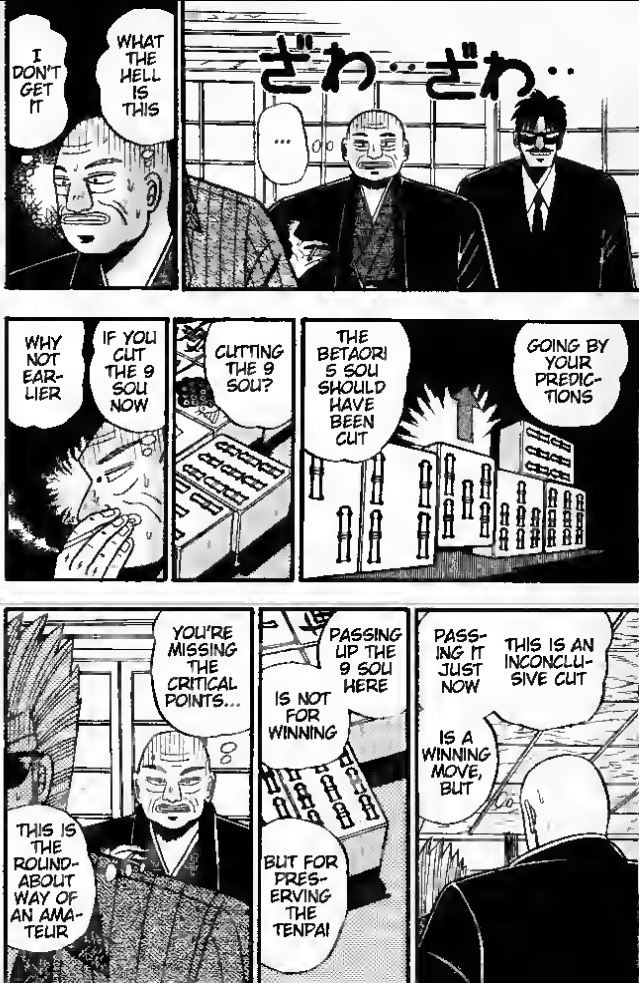
ざわ
U...
...

...

ざわ
...

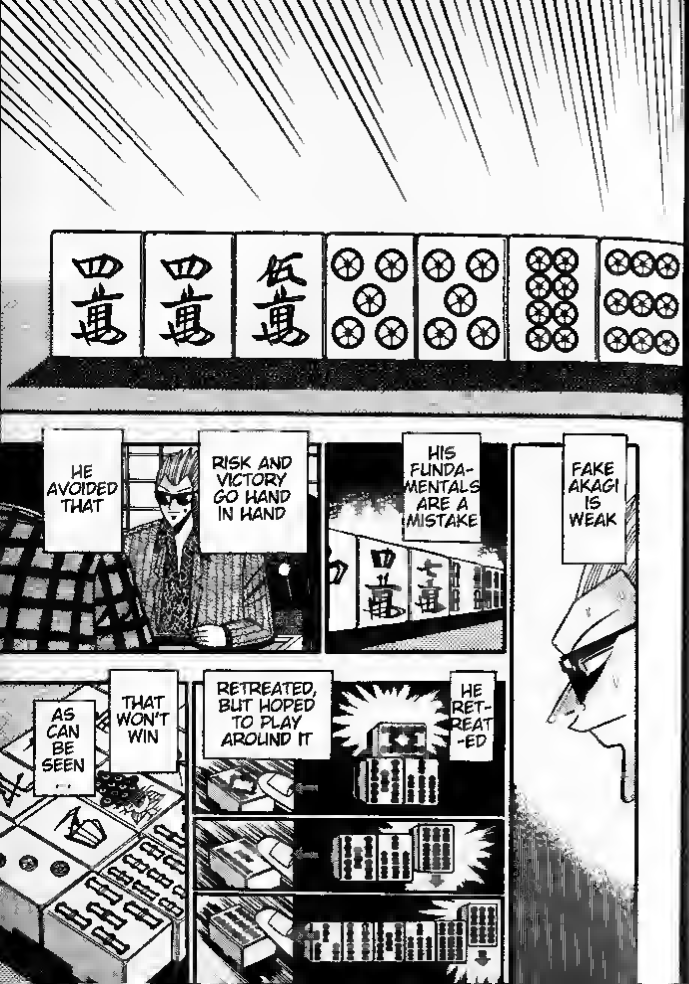
WHAT THE HECK IS HE DOING...

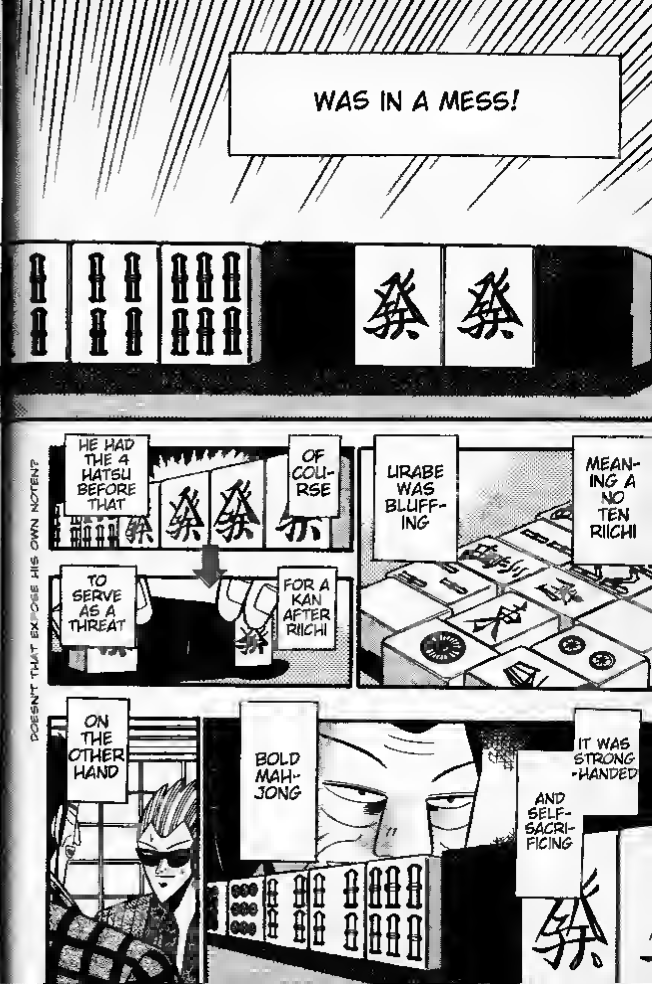
GUH


I DON'T GET IT
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS
ざわ…ざわ…
…
WHY NOT EARLIER
IF YOU CUT THE 9 SOU NOW
CUTTING THE 9 SOU?
THE BETAORI 5 SOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN CUT
GOING BY YOUR PREDICTIONS
THIS IS THE ROUNDABOUT WAY OF AN AMATEUR
YOU'RE MISSING THE CRITICAL POINTS...
PASSING UP THE 9 SOU HERE IS NOT FOR WINNING
BUT FOR PRESERVING THE TENPAI
PASSING IT JUST NOW IS A WINNING MOVE, BUT
THIS IS AN INCONCLUSIVE CUT

NEXT TURN
CON-FUSION!
7 PIN!
FAKE AKAGI DRAWS A RISKY TILE
THE REST TUM-BLES!
ONCE IT BEGINS
AND DIS-MAN-TLES HIS TEN-PAI!
HE CAN'T PASS IT
...
HE WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY DETER-MINATION...
HIS HAND ..
AS IF REFLECTING THE STATE OF HIS MIND
A FEW TURNS LATER

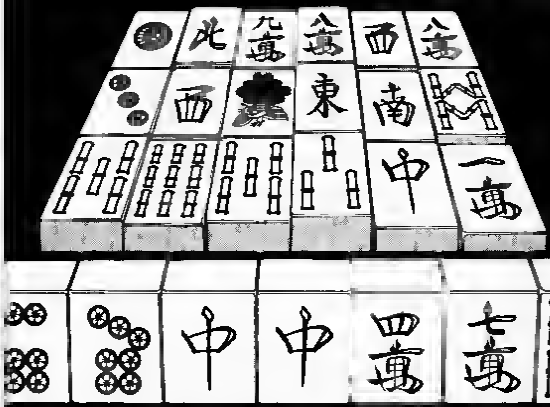
BREAKS DOWN!
CHI
HE COULD RELAX SINCE URABE'S HANEMAN DID NOT MANIFEST
BUT UNCONCERNED,
FAKE AKAGI WAS RELIEVED
FAKE AKAGI RAN AWAY FROM VICTORY
ざわ…ざわ…
2ND PLACE OTA WINS
DURING THE MATCH
ON THE OTHER HAND
TSUMO!
AT THAT TIME, URABE'S HAND
HE'D SUFFER IMMENSE REGRET
IF HE SAW URABE'S HAND
YES
AS I THOUGHT, THAT BRAT AND URABE ARE LEVELS APART
KU KU …
…
THE TOP IS REVERSED!
ハラ…


HE AVOIDED THAT
RISK AND VICTORY GO HAND IN HAND
HIS FUNDA-MENTALS ARE A MISTAKE
FAKE AKAGI IS WEAK
AS CAN BE SEEN...
THAT WON'T WIN
RETREATED, BUT HOPED TO PLAY AROUND IT
HE RET-REAT-ED


WAS IN A MESS!
DOESN'T THAT EXCUSE HIS OWN NOTEN?
HE HAD THE 4 HATSU BEFORE THAT
OF COU-RSE
TO SERVE AS A THREAT
FOR A KAN AFTER RIICHI
URABE WAS BLUFF-ING
MEAN-ING A NO TEN RIICHI
ON THE OTHER HAND
BOLD MAH-JONG
IT WAS STRONG-HANDED AND SELF-SACRI-FICING

THAT DEEP DARKNESS!

TO WIN, ONE HAS TO SURPASS THAT UNTREADABLE VALLEY



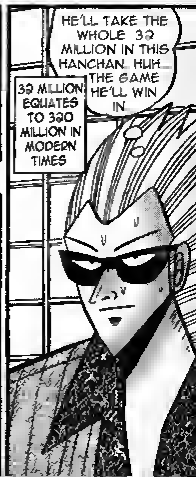
CHAPTER 38- SHORT TERM
THE MATCH BETWEEN FAKE AKAGI AND URABE
THE WAGER HAS NOW DOUBLED FROM 16 MILLION YEN TO 32 MILLION YEN
BUT GOT TRAPPED AND GAVE UP YET ANOTHER WIN TO HIM
LAST ROUND, FAKE AKAGI HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE GAME BACK FROM URABE
URABE WILL TRY AND TAKE THE WHOLE WAGER BACK IN THIS HANCHAN
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
.....
THAT URABE IS STILL TRYING TO BRING THE GAME TO A DRAW
YOU CAN'T THINK FOR A MOMENT
LAST ROUND WAS QUITE DANGEROUS
AND YOU LET HIM SLIP AWAY ONCE AGAIN, BUT
I KNOW
HE IS GOING TO END IT HERE

CHAPTER 38 - SHORT TERM

第38話 一時

SOMETHING CRUCIAL FOR A GAMBLER
BUT WHAT IS IT...?
THIS MAN IS MISSING SOMETHING VITALLY IMPORTANT
WHAT IS IT
HE'S MISSING SOMETHING

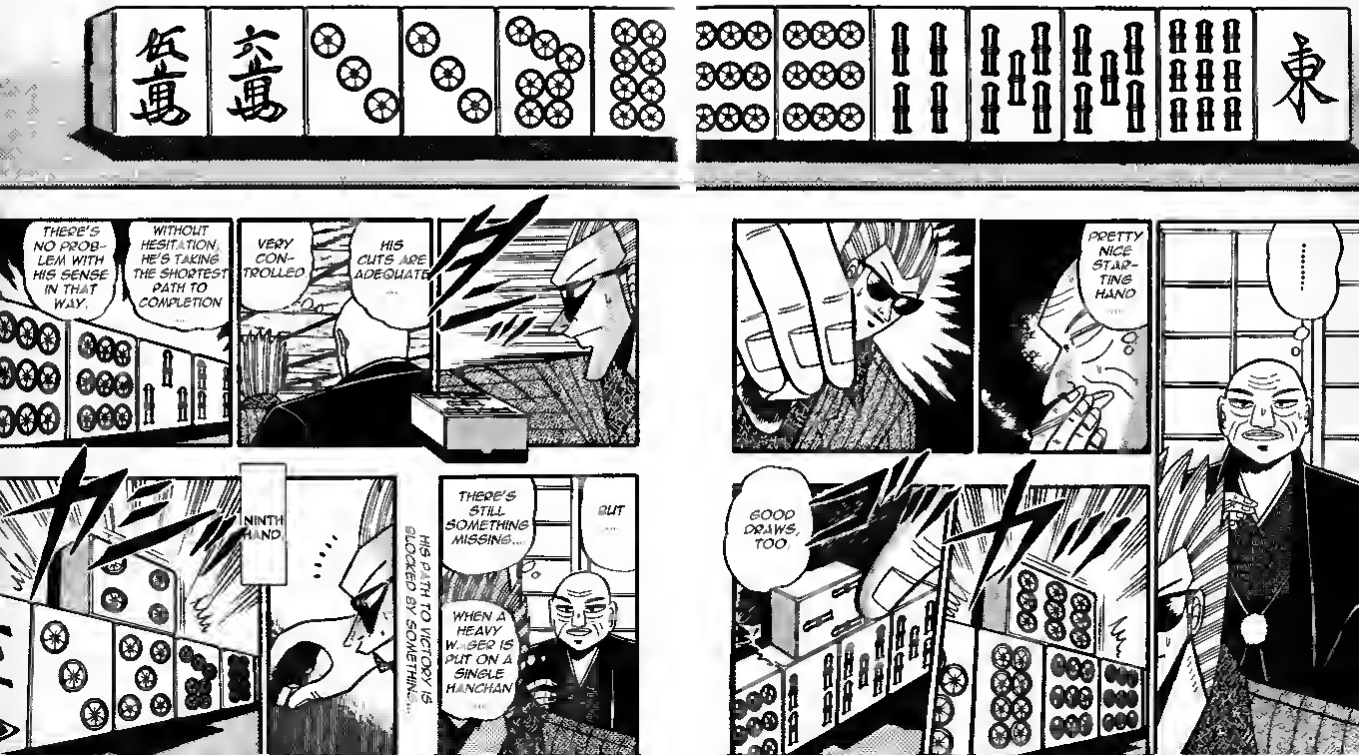
THINGS THAT I'M NOT QUITE UNDERSTANDING
AND MORE AND MORE THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN HIS FAVOR
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW QUITE HOW

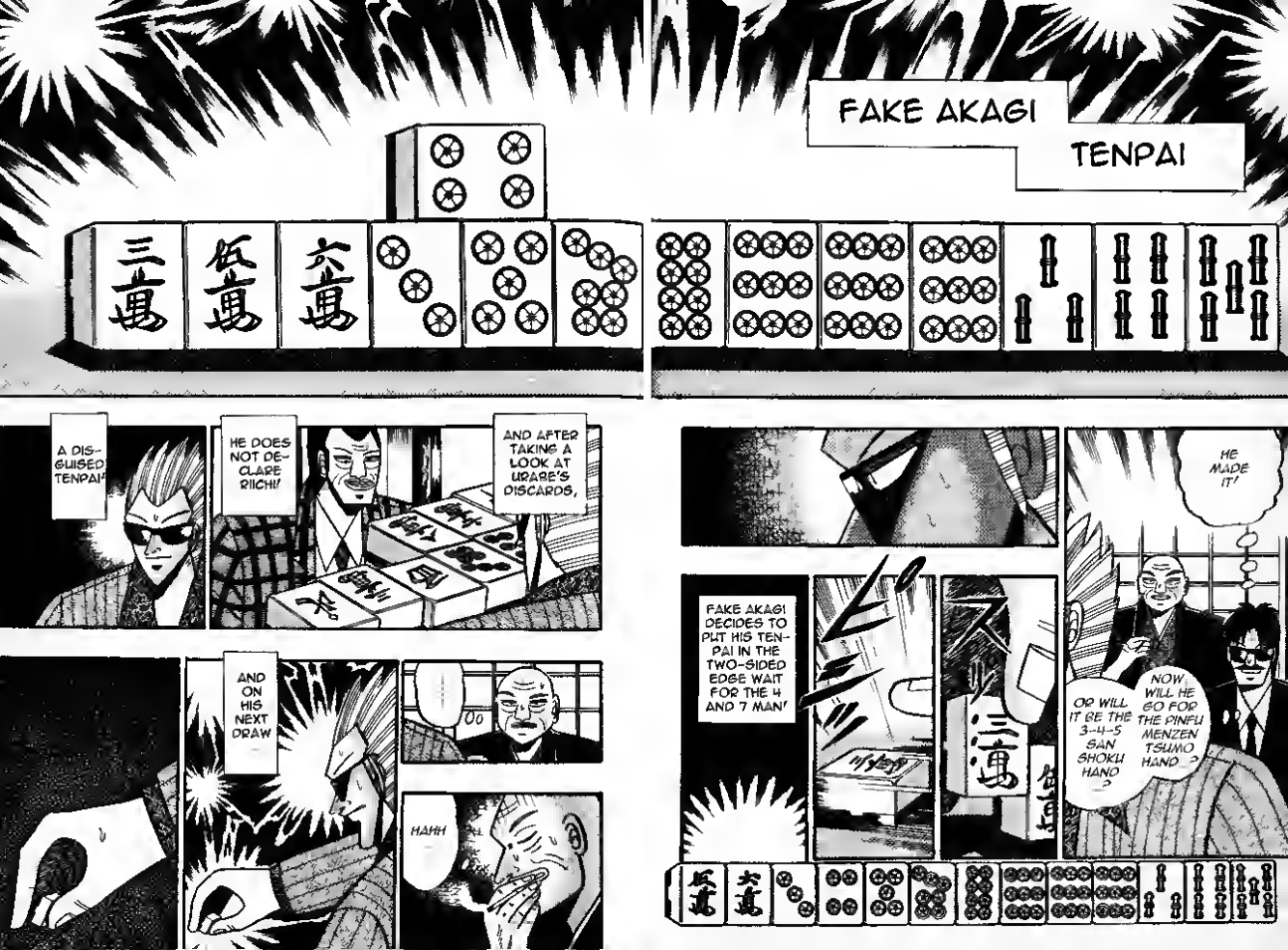


DESIRE...

FAKE AKAGI'S STARTING HAND

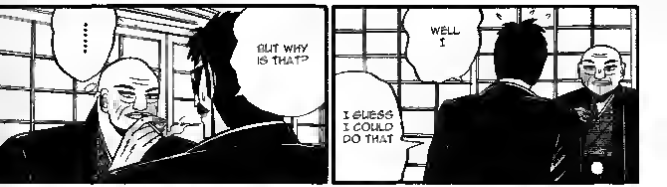
EAST FIRST ROUND


THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH HIS SENSE IN THAT WAY.
WITHOUT HESITATION, HE'S TAKING THE SHORTEST PATH TO COMPLETION.
VERY CONTROLLED
HIS CUTS ARE ADEQUATE
NINTH HAND
HIS PATH TO VICTORY IS BLOCKED BY SOMETHING...
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING MISSING...
BUT
WHEN A HEAVY WAGER IS PUT ON A SINGLE HANCHAN
PRETTY NICE STARTING HAND
GOOD DRAWS, TOO.

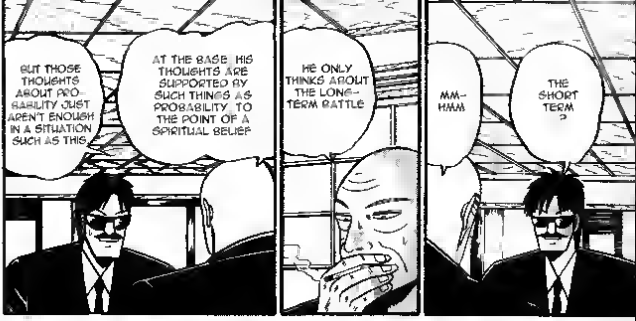

FAKE AKAGI
TENPAI
A DISGUISED TENPAI!
HE DOES NOT DECLARE RIICHI!
AND AFTER TAKING A LOOK AT URABE'S DISCARDS,
AND ON HIS NEXT DRAW
HAHH
FAKE AKAGI DECIDES TO PUT HIS TENPAI IN THE TWO-SIDED EDGE WAIT FOR THE 4 AND 7 MAN!
HE MADE IT!
OR WILL IT BE THE 3-4-5 SAN SHOKU HAND?
NOW WILL HE GO FOR THE PINFU MENZEN TSUMO HAND...?

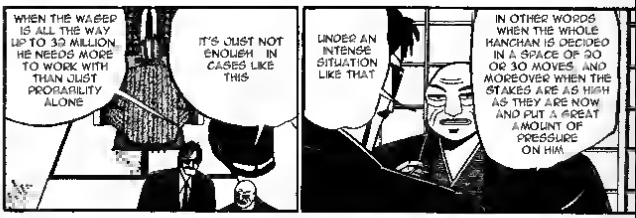
TSUMO!
PINFU, MENZEN TSUMO.
700/400
ALL RIGHT! HE'S GOT A BIT OF A LEAD, NOW...
HEHE

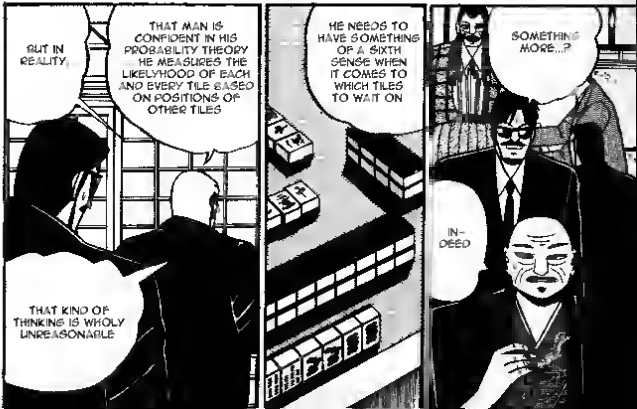
ISHI-KAWA
YES?
I'D LIKE TO SWITCH IN THE REAL AKAGI FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS MATCH
WOULD THAT BE POSSIBLE?
HUH ?!


WELL I
I GUESS I COULD DO THAT
BUT WHY IS THAT?
.....

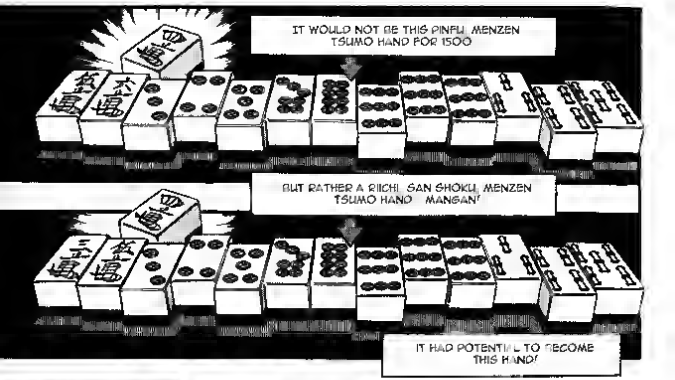
THE CURRENT AKAGI IS NO GOOD
I UNDER-STAND IT NOW...
THAT MAN DOESN'T HAVE THE GUTS...
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO GET WINS WHEN THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE SHORT TERM RESULTS
HUH ...?


BUT THOSE THOUGHTS ABOUT PROBABILITY JUST AREN'T ENOUGH IN A SITUATION SUCH AS THIS
AT THE BASE HIS THOUGHTS ARE SUPPORTED BY SUCH THINGS AS PROBABILITY TO THE POINT OF A SPIRITUAL BELIEF
HE ONLY THINKS ABOUT THE LONG-TERM BATTLE
MM-HMM
THE SHORT TERM ?


WHEN THE WAGER IS ALL THE WAY UP TO 30 MILLION HE NEEDS MORE TO WORK WITH THAN JUST PROBABILITY ALONE
IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH IN CASES LIKE THIS
UNDER AN INTENSE SITUATION LIKE THAT
IN OTHER WORDS WHEN THE WHOLE HANCHAN IS DECIDED IN A SPACE OF 20 OR 30 MOVES AND MOREOVER WHEN THE STAKES ARE AS HIGH AS THEY ARE NOW AND PUT A GREAT AMOUNT OF PRESSURE ON HIM


BUT IN REALITY
THAT MAN IS CONFIDENT IN HIS PROBABILITY THEORY HE MEASURES THE LIKELYHOOD OF EACH AND EVERY TILE BASED ON POSITIONS OF OTHER TILES
THAT KIND OF THINKING IS WHOLY UNREASONABLE
HE NEEDS TO HAVE SOMETHING OF A SIXTH SENSE WHEN IT COMES TO WHICH TILES TO WAIT ON
SOMETHING MORE...?
IN-DEED

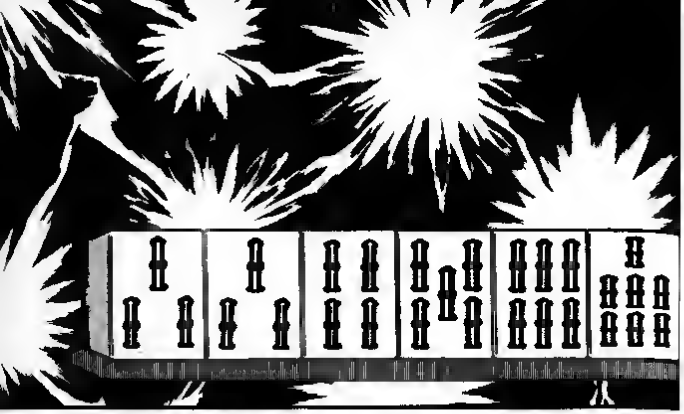
WHEN HE WON OFF THE 4-MAN
THE PINFU, MENZEN TSUMO HAND.
BEFORE HE DREW THE 4-MAN I COULD FEEL IT COMING ON HIS NEXT DRAW... IF HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO FEEL THAT, TOO... THEN...
THINK BACK TO WHAT JUST HAPPENED IN THE EAST 1ST ROUND.
AS AN EXAMPLE,
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS
IT SIMPLY WON'T DO...
HE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO KNOW WHICH TILES TO WAIT ON.

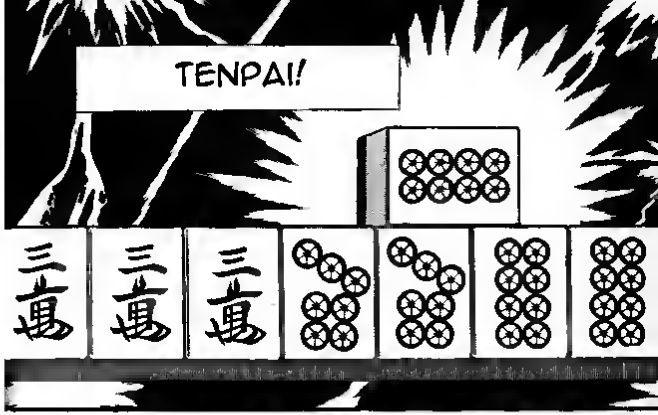

IT WOULD NOT BE THIS PINFU, MENZEN TSUMO HAND FOR 1500
BUT RATHER A RIICHI, SAN SHOKU, MENZEN TSUMO HAND... MANGAN!
IT HAD POTENTIAL TO BECOME THIS HAND!

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT
IF WE DON'T HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT
WE NEED THAT ABILITY RIGHT NOW.
BUT THAT'S-
AH
.....
QUICKLY DROPPED TO A 1500 POINT HAND BEFORE HIS EYES. I NEED SOMEONE BETTER THAN THAT.
IN THE END, A HAND THAT COULD HAVE EASILY REACHED MANGAN

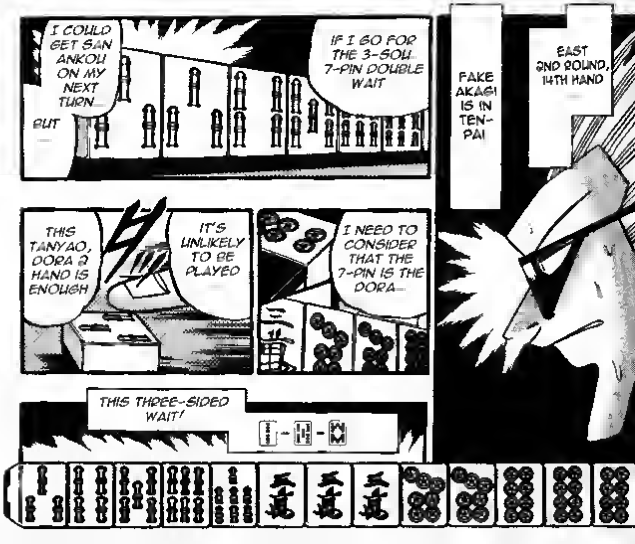
BUT ...
THAT MAN'S FAITH IN PROBABILITY, HIS THOUGHTS ...
THAT IS, THE ABILITY TO GET RESULTS IN THE SHORT TERM.
TO HAVE THAT ABILITY ON OUR SIDE, AS WELL.
THAT'S WHAT WE NEED AT THIS CRITICAL HOUR.
THE ABILITY TO SEE THAT U-MIN COMING...
THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, HE'S THINKING ABOUT
GETTING 3 WINS OUT OF 10...
33 WINS OUT OF 100
PROBABILITY IS GOOD WHEN YOU'RE UP AT BAT 10 TIMES...
AND CONNECT WITH THE BALL THREE OF THOSE TIMES, ONE WOULD THINK.
ARE EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE!
IT'S USELESS
HIS PROBABILITY THEORY ISN'T DOING HIM ANY GOOD RIGHT NOW.
HE'S PANICKING
BY HIMSELF HE DOES NOT HOLD THE ABILITY TO GET THOSE RESULTS.
BUT HE LACKS THE CONCENTRATION TO FOCUS ON EACH GAME ONE AT A TIME!
PEOPLE WHO USE CHANCE ARE A DIME A DOZEN

EXCEED MERE HUMAN THOUGHT AND CONCENTRATION
LET THE HEAVENS GUIDE YOU TO VICTORY!
IN TIMES LIKE THESE ONE MUST RELY ON THEIR INTUITION!
THIS MATCH IS ALL ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM RESULTS
HE COULDN'T FEEL THAT 4 MAN COMING
IN ORDER TO TURN THIS GAME AROUND IN HIS FAVOR, HE WOULD HAVE TO COMPLETELY CHANGE HIS THOUGHT PATTERNS
DURING THAT SHORT TIME YOU CAN RELY ON NOTHING ELSE. IT IS A CONCEPT FOREIGN TO THAT MAN.
.....
GO WITH YOUR GUT.
NOT WITH THAT ATTITUDE.
HE CAN'T WIN ...



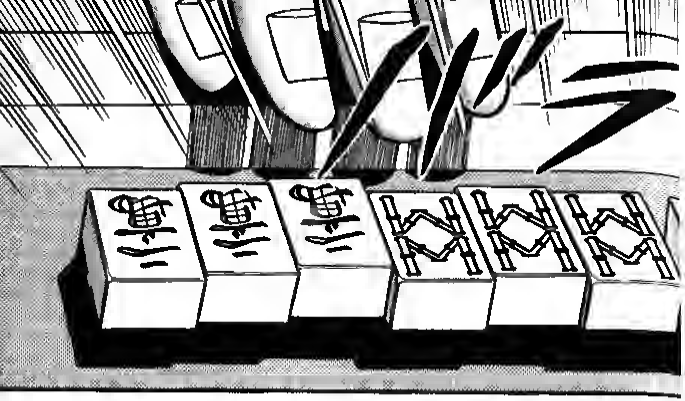

TENPAI!

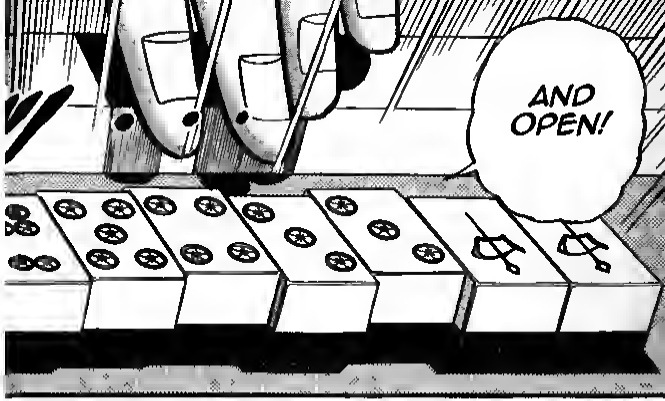
BUT EVEN THOUGH HE IS...
HE'S IN TEN-PAI.
HE SWITCHED OUT A 3-SOU.
HE'S NOT GONNA DECLARE RIICHI?
HEHE HE...
GOING THIS WAY IS MUCH BETTER.
HEHE!
HE FIGURES HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IT BEFORE THE END OF THE GAME.
HE'S PROLLY BASING IT OFFA THE NUMBER'VE DRAWS REMAINING.


I COULD GET SAN ANKOU ON MY NEXT TURN...
BUT...
IF I GO FOR THE 3-SOU 7-PIN DOUBLE WAIT
FAKE AKAGI IS IN TEN-PAI
EAST 2ND ROUND, 14TH HAND
THIS TANYAO, DORA 2 HAND IS ENOUGH
IT'S UNLIKELY TO BE PLAYED
I NEED TO CONSIDER THAT THE 7-PIN IS THE DORA...
THIS THREE-SIDED WAIT!

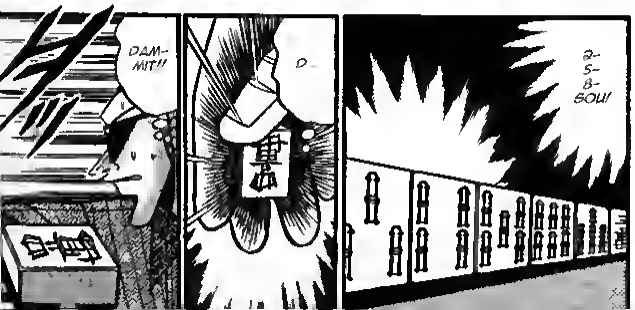
IF YOU'VE GOT A HAND, WHY NOT GO FOR IT?
TALK ABOUT WEAK!
NIISAN
...
IT'S SO WEAK!
DON'T EXPECT LUCK TO COME TO YOUR SIDE LIKE THAT EITHER!
YOUR MAHJONG GAME IS SO WEAK!
THAT GOODY-GOODY WAY OF PLAYING WON'T PUT PRESSURE ON YOUR OPPO-NENT!
YOU'RE GIVIN' UP ON WINNING ALREADY?!
ARE OPENS COOL WITH YOU?
"OPENS"
?
HEY NIISAN
GET YOUR GAME ON, OR MY SUPERIOR MAHJONG GAME'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE A BUG!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, OPENS?
OPEN RIICHI OF COURSE. IT'S WORTH 2 HAN IF YOU DO IT
SIR...?
IT'S FINE
WE ALLOW THEM
HEHE
THAT RIGHT!
'KAY, THEN
I'LL RIICHI!

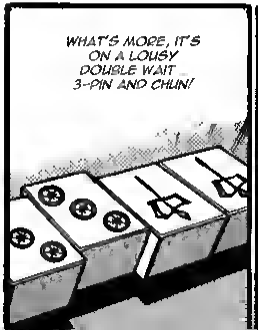



AND OPEN!

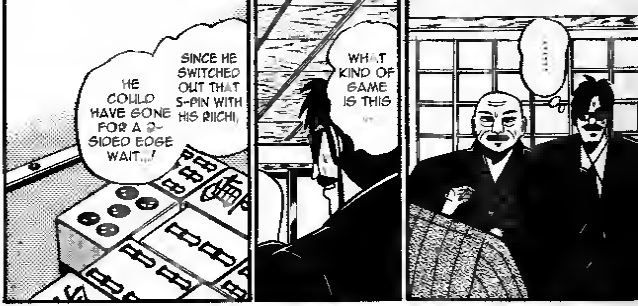
MY THREE-SIDED WAIT WON'T LOSE TO THAT!
WHAT A DUMB PLAY
THE OTHER TWO CHUN HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLAYED...
SO HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT FOR THE 3-PIN!
THAT'S JUST UNREASONABLE

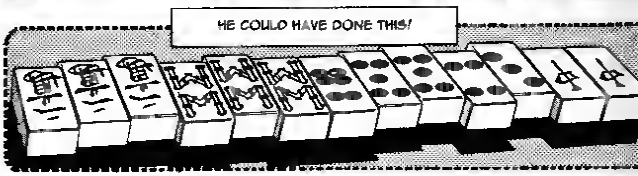

DAMMIT!!
D...
2-5-8-SOU!

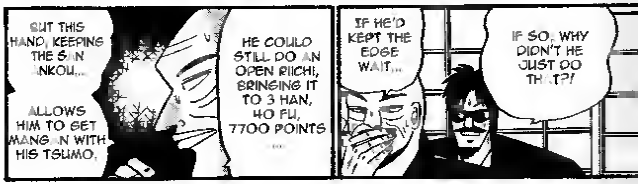
KH-!

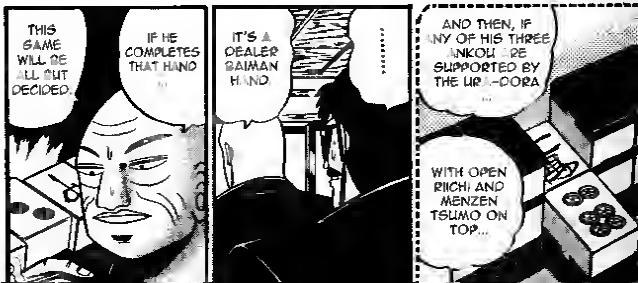

WHAT'S MORE, IT'S ON A LOUSY DOUBLE WAIT 3-PIN AND CHUN!

HE REALLY DID IT!


HE COULD HAVE GONE FOR A 2-SIDED EDGE WAIT...!
SINCE HE SWITCHED OUT THAT 5-PIN WITH HIS RIICHI,
WHAT KIND OF GAME IS THIS...
.....


HE COULD HAVE DONE THIS!


BUT THIS HAND, KEEPING THE 5-PIN TANKOU,...
ALLOWS HIM TO GET MANGAN WITH HIS TSUMO.
HE COULD STILL DO AN OPEN RIICHI, BRINGING IT TO 3 HAN, 40 FU, 7700 POINTS
IF HE'D KEPT THE EDGE WAIT...
IF SO, WHY DIDN'T HE JUST DO THAT?!


THIS GAME WILL BE ALL BUT DECIDED.
IF HE COMPLETES THAT HAND...
IT'S A DEALER BAIMAN HAND.
.....
AND THEN, IF ANY OF HIS THREE TANKOU ARE SUPPORTED BY THE URA-DORA...
WITH OPEN RIICHI AND MENZEN TSUMO ON TOP...

MOPE-OVER...
HE PROBABLY HAS A GOOD FEEL FOR THE TILES.
EH...?
HE SENSES THAT HE WILL DRAW IT...
HIS WINNING TILE...
.....
THE 3-PIN THAT WILL COMPLETE HIS HAND...!
WHEW...
.....
HE DIDN'T GET IPPA-TSU...
BUT, ON HIS NEXT TURN...!

HE CAN'T!
HE WON'T DRAW IT!!

TSUMO!
OPEN RIICHI, MENZEN TSUMO, SAN AN KOU... MANGAN!
DORA 3 MAKES IT A BAIMAN!
WELL, WOULD'YA LOOK AT THAT! THE URA-DORA IS ONE OF MY ANKOU
SORRY 'BOUT THAT, NIISAN
HEHE

.....
.....
WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS...?!
ISHI-KAWA
NO WAY
HE'S NO GOOD
WE CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!
KEEPING HIM PLAYING
WILL ONLY DRIVE US FURTHER INTO THIS HOLE!
GET AKAGI IN HERE!
IF THE ENEMY HAS POISON, WE'LL FIGHT BACK WITH OUR OWN!
SIR!

CHAPTER 39 - NOVICE

第39話 素人

WHERE'S AKAGI?
OH, AKAGI-SAN IS JUST OUT
HE'S GETTING SOME FRESH AIR

AKA-
HEY, AKAGI! WHERE'D YOU GO?
AKAGI ...?
AKAGI!
OUR REP PLAYER IS DONE FOR!
WE NEED YOUR STRENGTH RIGHT NOW!
AT ANY RATE, COME BACK WITH ME!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
YEAH
URARE'S BEATING YOU THAT BAD, HUH?
HMM-HM

I'M BEGGING YOU AKAGI!!
IT'S TOO BAD, BUT
RIGHT NOW, IT'S ALL THE WAY UP TO 30 MILLION!
THAT BASTARD KEPT ON INCREASING THE STAKES OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
HM-HMM

YOU
YOU DON'T-?!
I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE IT

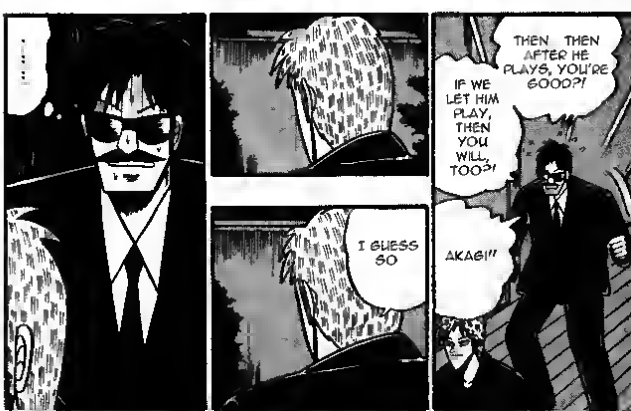
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT WE CAN RELY ON RIGHT NOW!!
AKAGI!!
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN FEEL OR NOT FEEL LIKE DOING!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT?!
IT'S 30 MILLION WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! 30 MIL!!
THIS RATE OF 30 MILLION IN 1964 EQUATES TO 330 MILLION TODAY
WHAT ABOUT OSAMU?

GET HIM TO...
WHY DON'T YOU GET HIM TO PLAY FOR YOU?
MM-HMM.
OSAMU... YOU MEAN THAT LITTLE FREC-KLED KID...?
OSAMU...?
.....

ISHI-KAWA-SAN
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING SOME MERE NOVICE CAN HELP WITH!!
UGARE WOULD TEAR THAT KID A NEW ONE!!
HM-HMM
THEN FORGET IT!!
NOT REALLY?!!
NOT REALLY...
THAT KID... DOES HE HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE OR SOME-THING?!

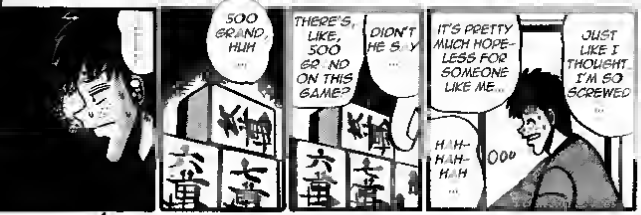
I GUESS I JUST CAN'T HELP YOU THEN
JUST BEING "ALL RIGHT" WON'T CUT IT, AKAGI!
THERE'S 30 MIL ON THE LINE HERE! 30 MILLION!
HMM HM HM
HE MIGHT JUST DO ALL RIGHT
THERE'S NO WAY!
SO HE CAN PLAY AS IF IT WERE ANY NORMAL GAME?
WHY DON'T YOU KEEP THE RATE A SECRET

AKAGI...!!
DON'T EXPECT ME TO, EITHER
IF OSAMU CAN'T PLAY

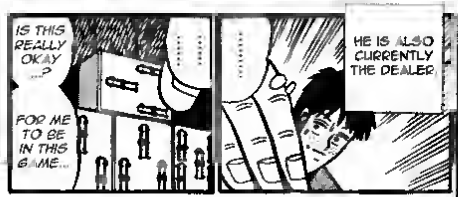

I GUESS SO
THEN... THEN AFTER HE PLAYS, YOU'RE GOOD?!
IF WE LET HIM PLAY, THEN YOU WILL, TOO?!
AKAGI!!

COME!
OW-OW-OWWW!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EATING?
HUH? AKAGI-SAN ISN'T BACK HERE YET
....
YOU'RE OUR ONLY CHOICE!
YOU'RE PLAYING FOR US!
OUR REP PLAYER GOT TAKEN DOWN
WAIT...!
HUH?
.....
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!

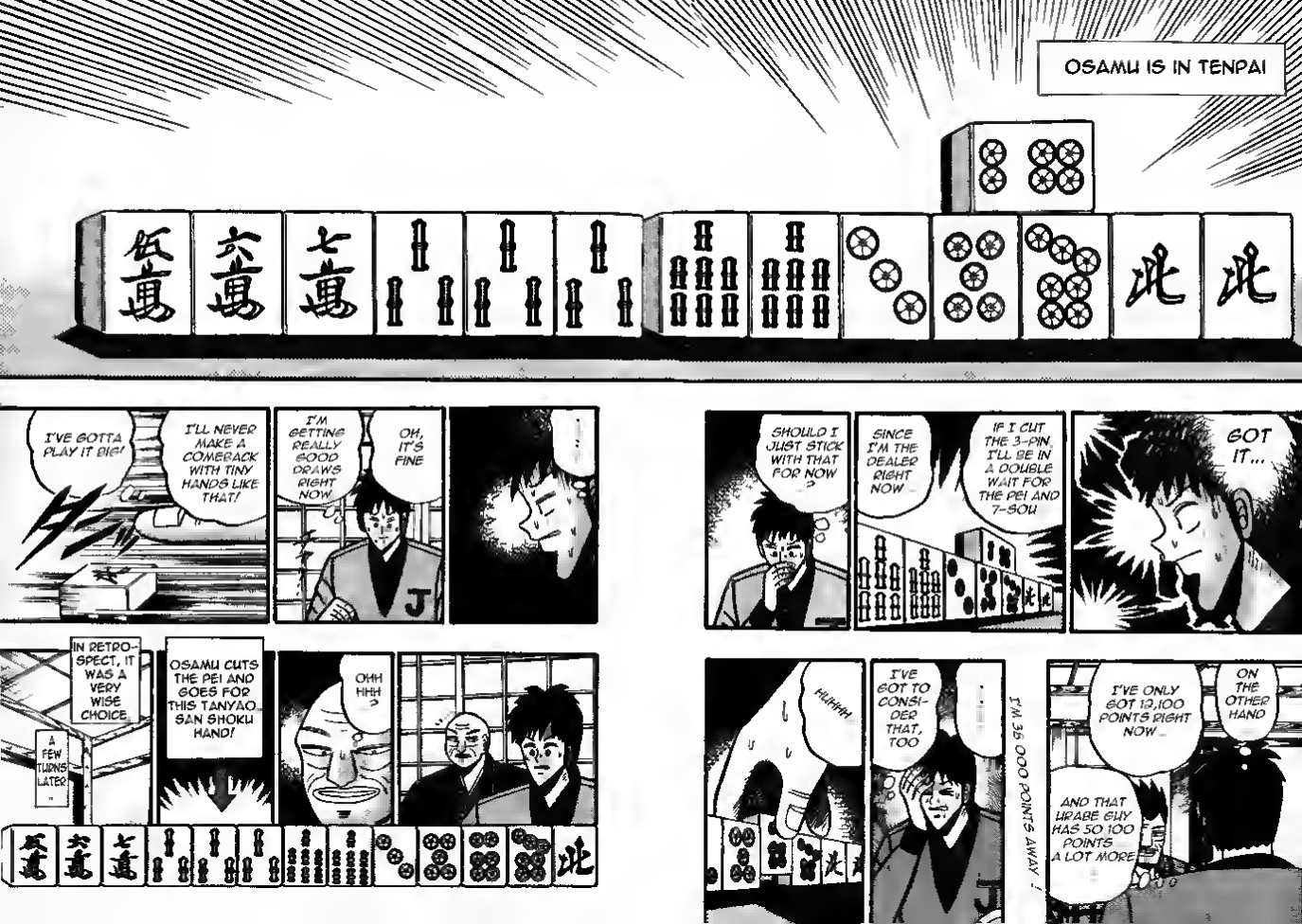
ざわ
ざわ
IN THE MATCH VERSUS URABE,
OSAMU JOINS THE FIGHT

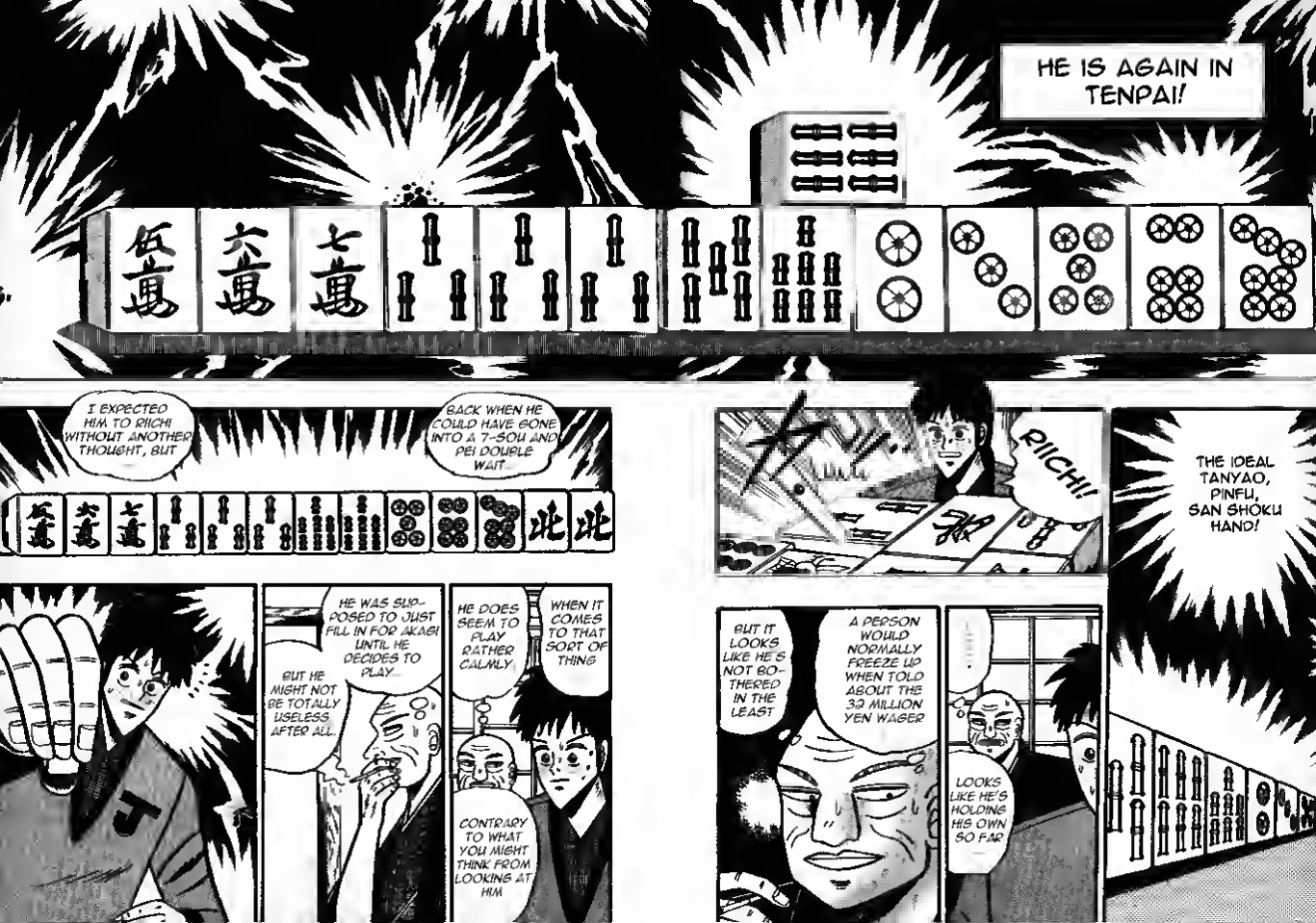

SOO GRAND, HUH
THERE'S, LIKE, SOO GRAND ON THIS GAME?
DIDN'T HE S..Y
IT'S PRETTY MUCH HOPELESS FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...
HUH-HAH-HAH
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT. I'M SO SCREWED

DEAD LAST
I CAME IN WITH ONLY 1100 POINTS LEFT
IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM!
WELL, WHAT'S IT TO ME, YOU KNOW?


IS THIS REALLY OKAY...?
FOR ME TO BE IN THIS GAME...
HE IS ALSO CURRENTLY THE DEALER
OSAMU HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED IN... DURING THE EAST FOURTH ROUND

HEY, HEY
YOU'RE LOOKING PRETTY DOWN IN THE DUMPS
BUT HE ENDED UP SUFFERING A MAJOR LOSS
THE GUY WHO WENT BEFORE ME SEEMED REALLY GOOD...


OSAMU IS IN TENPAI
I'VE GOTTA PLAY IT BIG!
I'LL NEVER MAKE A COMEBACK WITH TINY HANDS LIKE THAT!
I'M GETTING REALLY GOOD DRAWS RIGHT NOW
OH, IT'S FINE
SHOULD I JUST STICK WITH THAT FOR NOW...?
SINCE I'M THE DEALER RIGHT NOW...
IF I CUT THE 3-PIN, I'LL BE IN A DOUBLE WAIT FOR THE PEI AND 7-SOU
GOT IT...
IN RETRO-SPECT, IT WAS A VERY WISE CHOICE
A FEW TURNS LATER...
OSAMU CUTS THE PEI AND GOES FOR THIS TANYAO SAN SHOKU HAND!
OHH HHH...?
FUHHH
I'VE GOT TO CONSI-DER THAT, TOO
I'M 36 000 POINTS AWAY!
I'VE ONLY GOT 12,100 POINTS RIGHT NOW...
ON THE OTHER HAND
AND THAT URABE GUY HAS 50 100 POINTS A LOT MORE


HE IS AGAIN IN TENPAI!
I EXPECTED HIM TO RICHI WITHOUT ANOTHER THOUGHT, BUT
BACK WHEN HE COULD HAVE GONE INTO A 7-SOU AND PEI DOUBLE WAIT...
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO JUST FILL IN FOR AKAGI UNTIL HE DECIDES TO PLAY...
BUT HE MIGHT NOT BE TOTALLY USELESS AFTER ALL.
HE DOES SEEM TO PLAY RATHER CALMLY.
WHEN IT COMES TO THAT SORT OF THING
CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK FROM LOOKING AT HIM
RIICHI!
THE IDEAL TANYAO, PINFU, SAN SHOKU HAND!
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT BOTHERED IN THE LEAST
A PERSON WOULD NORMALLY FREEZE UP WHEN TOLD ABOUT THE 3.2 MILLION YEN WAGER
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HOLDING HIS OWN SO FAR

TSUMO!
GRGH
4000 FROM EVERY-ONE!
RIICHI, PINFU, SAN SHOKU, MENZEN TSUMO!
MANGAN!
THE NEXT GAME IS A DRAW,
WITH THIS WIN, OSAMU GAINS THE MOMENTUM FOR A WINNING STREAK!
ざわ..

ONE WORTH 8000 FROM EVERYONE, AND ANOTHER WORTH 2800 FROM EVERYONE!
HE COMPLETES TWO MORE HANDS,
BUT AFTERWARDS,
JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO, THE SITUATION HAD SEEMED IRREVERSIBLE...
HE HAS 32,200 TO BE EXACT!
WITH THIS SET OF WINS, OSAMU'S POINTS BREAK 30,000
ONLY 11900 POINTS STAND BETWEEN THEM!
WITH HIS POT OF 43400 POINTS LEFT...
BUT URABE IS NOW WITHIN REACH AS FAR AS POINTS ARE CONCERNED.
ざわ...ざわ...
HE WILL HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MADE HIS COMEBACK!
IF HE CAN GET A MANGAN WITH THIS NEXT HAND

HUH ?!
BUT EVEN THOUGH THE WAGER IS ALL THE WAY UP AT 30 MILLION
I GUESS HE WAS TAKING IT EASY BECAUSE HE CAME IN AT LAST PLACE
KIO ISN'T ALL THAT BAD !
THIS IS QUITE A SUR-PRISE
HE DOESN'T SEEM RO-TATTED AT ALL !
ヒソ
ヒソ

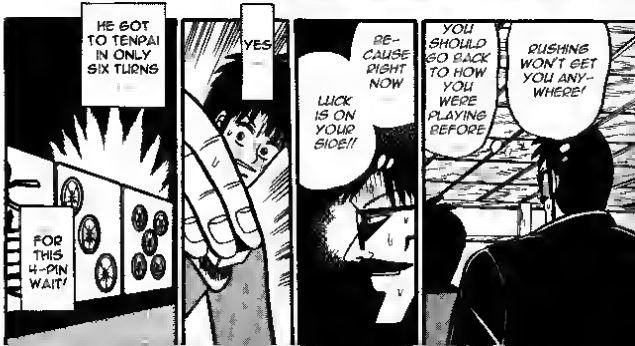
ポン
30 MILLION YEN ?
WHA
30 MILL-ION ..?

SO IT'S TRUE
HE JUST DIDN'T TELL ME BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT AFFECT MY PLAY
カチャ
BUT 30 MILLION!
THAT'S
THAT'S JUST CRAZY!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I LOSE...?
カチャ
WHAT WILL I GET...?
I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL OF THAT MONEY...
チャ...
SO THEY'LL PUT ME IN DEBT...?

OSAMU'S HAND
IF I WANT TO COMPLETE THIS HAND...
I CAN MAKE A TANYAO, DORA 3 HAND... AND A COME BACK!
DORA 3!
THAT'S 3.2 MILLION
GET SOMETHING LIKE 10¥ AS A REWARD?
WILL I...
BUT STILL IF I WIN...
IF I CAN...
IF I DO I'LL BE IN FIRST!
THE DORA INDICATOR IS THE 7-PIN

CHI!
OSAMU IS LURED IN BY THE DORA INDICATOR
HE MAKES HIS MOVE RIGHT OUT OF THE GATE!
CHI!
JUST LIKE THAT, HE CALLS TWICE AND MAKES IT TO TENPAI

HE'S TRYING TO GET THE WIN AS SOON AS HE CAN
THAT CALM PLAYING STYLE HE HAD BEFORE IS ENTIRELY GONE!
HE'S GETTING OVER-EXCITED!
THIS IS BAD
A CLOSED 4-PIN WAIT!


HE GOT TO TENPAI IN ONLY SIX TURNS
FOR THIS 4-PIN WAIT!
YES
LUCK IS ON YOUR SIDE!!
BE-CAUSE RIGHT NOW
YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO HOW YOU WERE PLAYING BEFORE
RUSHING WON'T GET YOU ANY-WHERE!

AND ON TOP OF THAT
HE CAN'T...!
BUT HE CAN'T DRAW IT!
ON THE 10TH TURN
URA-
RIICHI!
PLEASE PASS!!
GUH...!
AND THEN, ON THE 12TH TURN
KH...!

RON!!
HEH-HEH-HEH
RIICHI, HON ITSU, DORA 1. THAT'S MANGAN!
HE GOT ME
ALL THE 4-PINS I NEEDED TO COMPLETE MY HAND
...GOT WORKED INTO HIS HAND!
AND ON AN UNNEEDED TILE FOR MY OPEN TANYAO!
THAT'S WHY HE DECLARED RIICHI...!
HE TOTALLY BLOCKED OFF MY 4-PIN WAIT!
THIS IS TOO...
ISHIKAWA-SAN...
IT'S LIKE HE KNEW WHAT I WAS THINKING...THAT WAS WAY TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT...!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THIS...
OF COURSE I'D EVENTUALLY PLAY THE 1, 9, AND HONOR TILES...!

AKAGI-SAN!!

HMM-HM-HM...

THANKS A LOT FOR READING CHAPTER 38 OF AKAGI!
IF YOU ALSO READ LIAR GAME, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED
IN AN ONLINE LIAR GAME TOURNAMENT WHOSE INTERMEDIATE
STAGES ARE HAPPENING NOW AT
HTTP://CAROUSELOFLIARS.PROBOARDS.COM/INDEX.CGI! TAKE A LOOK!

MANGA BY FUKUMOTO NOBUYUKI

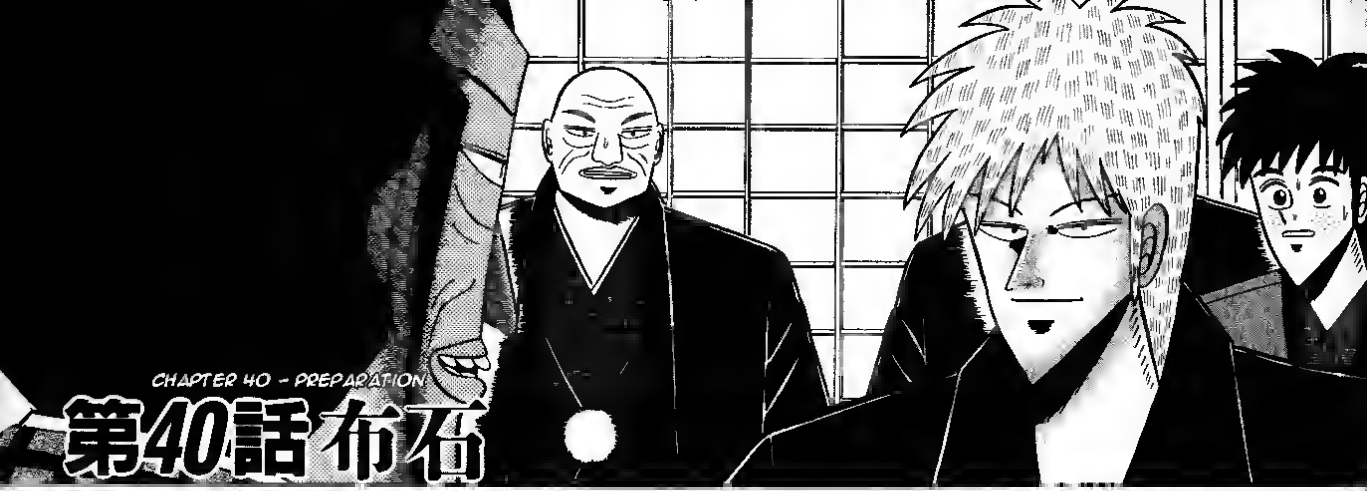
EDITED BY FKMTKRAZY

TRANSLATIONS TAKEN IN PART
FROM TRIAD FANSUBS' TRANSLATION OF
THE TOHAI DENSETSU AKAGI ANIME

AKAGI-SAN!
AKAGI!

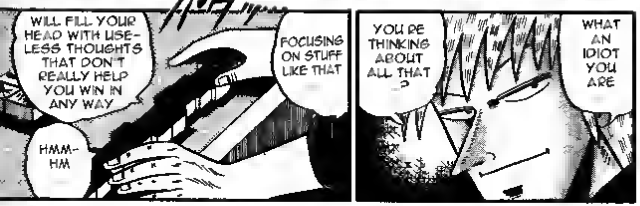
HEY, OSAMU
WANT TO SWITCH?
Y YES!

HMM-HM-HM
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, AKAGI!

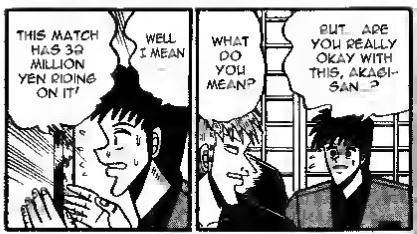


CHAPTER 40 - PREPARATION

第40話 布石



PEOPLE LIKE US DON'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO THIS JUST SIT BACK AND PLAY THE GAME.
AKAGI-SAN!!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER ONE BIT
THE MONEY BELONGS TO SOME-ONE ELSE
YOU'RE BRINGING UP THE WAGER OF OVER 30 MIL
LIS-TEN.
AS USUAL, YOU'RE JUST THINKING IN TERMS OF NUMBERS



HAH-HAH!
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU CAN EVEN GET CLOSE TO WINNING!
YOU'RE STARTING IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE GAME AND CLOSE TO 30,000 POINTS DOWN!

H... HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT ...?!
HMM-HM
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.
I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HOW BIG OF A GAP THERE IS BETWEEN US.
JUST AS I SAID, WE DON'T NEED TO CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THAT STUFF.
AT THE MOMENT, THE ONLY ONES WHO NEED TO BE WORRYING ...ARE THE YAKUZA GUYS SITTING BEHIND US...

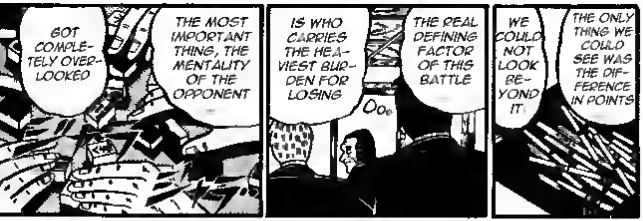
AND URABE.

HUH?
URABE?
YEAH
HE'S QUITE WORRIED RIGHT NOW
WAIT! BUT URABE HAS JUST SHORT OF A 30,000 POINT LEAD!
I DON'T SEE HOW YOU CAN THINK HE HAS ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
HMM-HM-HM

ACTUALLY, THERE'S NO NEED TO EVEN THINK ON THAT. IT'S URABE
BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, WHO WILL BE THE WORSE OFF IF THEY LOSE?
BUT THINK ABOUT IT FOR A SECOND
THAT'S THE IMPRESSION I'D HAVE EXPECTED FROM JUST A GLANCE AT THE GAME
THROUGH THIS WHOLE BATTLE, URABE HAS BEEN BRINGING IT TO A DRAW EVERY GAME
THAT URABE IS WAY ABOVE NEEDING TO WORRY ABOUT IT
HE KEPT RAISING THE STAKES BASED ON HIS OWN SELFISH DESIRES
THAT'S WHERE HIS REAL DUTY WAS BORN
HE DID THAT TIME AND TIME AGAIN
IN MANY GAMES TO NOW, HE COULD HAVE WON IT ALL WITH EASE
THIS STUPIDLY HIGH RATE IS ALL ON HIM
THE PRESSURE HE'S FEELING RIGHT NOW MUST BE MORE... TRULY THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE ROOM
THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT
BE IT IN CASH... OR HIS OWN BLOOD
HE'LL HAVE TO OWN UP TO THE LOSS
HE CAN'T JUST SAY SORRY FOR THE 32 MIL AND BE NO WORSE FOR WEAR. OF COURSE NOT.
IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN THAT HE LOSES...
WHICH MEANS
NO ONE WOULD LET HIM GET OFF THAT EASY.

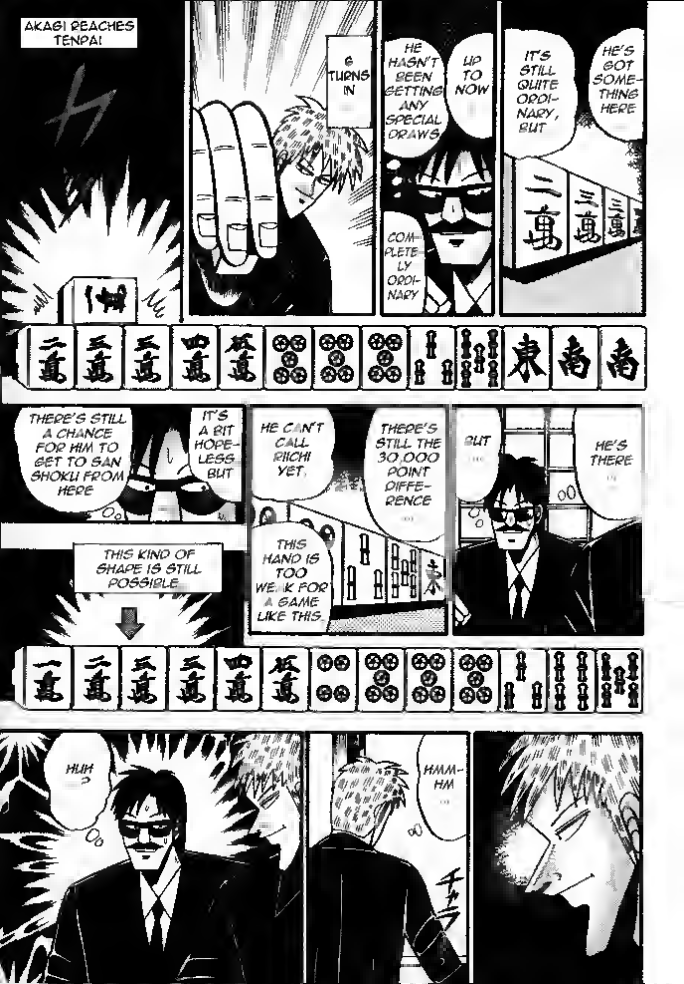
.....
IN THIS GAME OF MAHJONG, THOSE 30,000 POINTS ARE HIS LAST LINE OF DEFENSE.
ONCE THEY'RE OUT OF THE WAY, HE'LL BE EXPOSED.
WELL, YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE.
HMM-HM...
HMPH...
.....
HMM-HM-HM...
HE'LL BE GASPING FOR BREATH LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER.
RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT...
ALL BASED ON WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF HE LOSES.

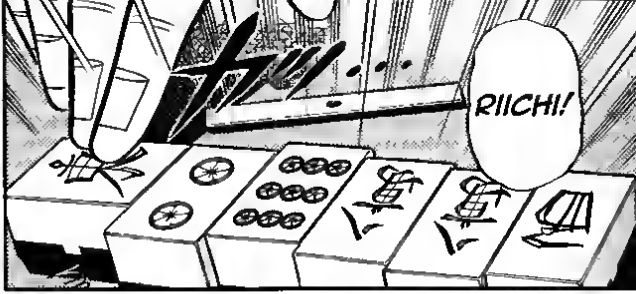
AKAGI IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT
I SEE
HMM-HM...


GOT COMPLE-TELY OVER-LOOKED
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, THE MENTALITY OF THE OPPONENT
IS WHO CARRIES THE HEA-VIEST BUR-DEN FOR LOSING
THE REAL DEFINING FACTOR OF THIS BATTLE
WE COULD NOT LOOK BE-YOND IT
THE ONLY THING WE COULD SEE WAS THE DIF-FERENCE IN POINTS

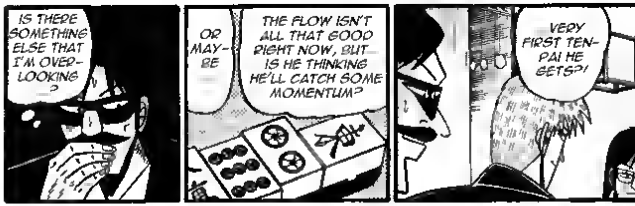
AKAGI SHIGERU...!
JUST AS I THOUGHT HE'S THE ONLY ONE WE CAN RELY ON
AKAGI CAN REMAIN CALM!
DES-PITE THE POINTS
IT'S NOT OVER YET
WHILE THE REST OF US HAVE OUR HANDS FULL!
HE CAN CALMLY PUT TO-GETHER A PLAN...

THE MATCH RESUMES!
NOW, LET'S SEE IT....
THE SOUTH FIRST ROUND
AKAGI'S MAHJONG TIME!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 5 YEARS, I'LL GET TO SEE IT FIRST-HAND ...!
WHAT KIND OF GAME WILL I SEE TODAY ....?
WELL, FOR THE MOMENT, IT'S NOT ABOUT GOOD OR BAD HANDS ....
THIS ONE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH PROMISE ....
AKAGI'S HAND STURNS IN


AKAGI REACHES TENPAI
6 TURNS IN
HE HASN'T BEEN GETTING ANY SPECIAL DRAWS
UP TO NOW
COMPLETELY ORDINARY
IT'S STILL QUITE ORDINARY, BUT
HE'S GOT SOMETHING HERE
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE FOR HIM TO GET TO SAN SHOKU FROM HERE
IT'S A BIT HOPELESS, BUT
HE CAN'T CALL RIICHI YET.
THERE'S STILL THE 30,000 POINT DIFFERENCE
THIS HAND IS TOO WEAK FOR A GAME LIKE THIS.
THIS KIND OF SHAPE IS STILL POSSIBLE
BUT
HE'S THERE
HUH?
HMM-HM
チャラ

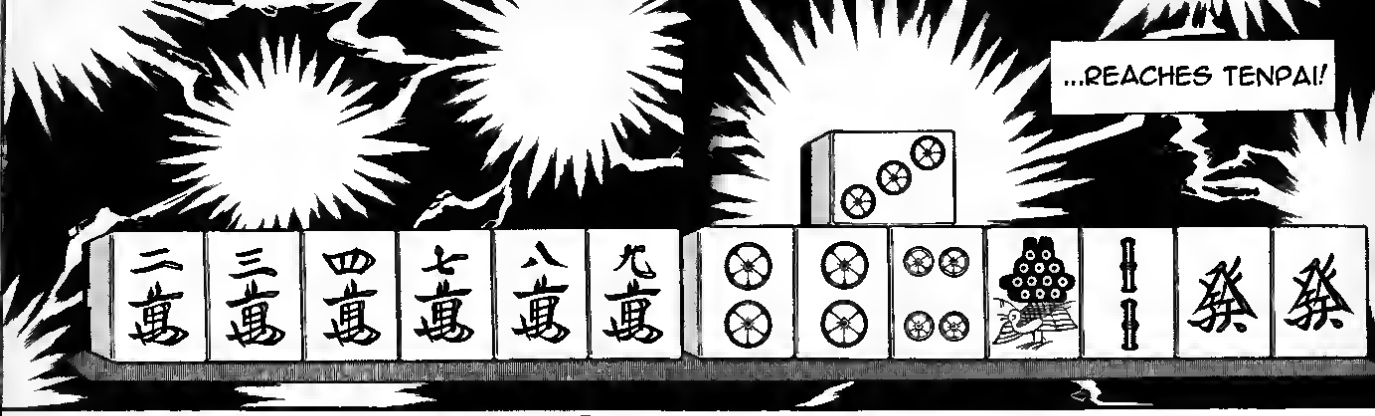

RIICHI!

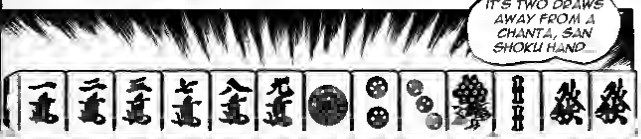
NOT... CHANGING THIS...
HE WON'T REACH ANY FURTHER?
URGH...!

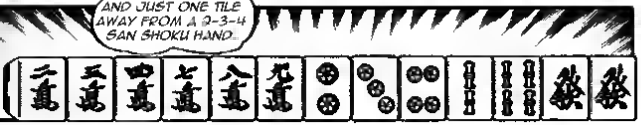

IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE THAT I'M OVERLOOKING?
OR MAYBE
THE FLOW ISN'T ALL THAT GOOD RIGHT NOW, BUT... IS HE THINKING HE'LL CATCH SOME MOMENTUM?
VERY FIRST TENPAI HE GETS?!

URABE TAKES EACH DISCARD WITH CAUTION
CONFRONTED WITH AKAGI'S PREEMPTIVE RIICHI.

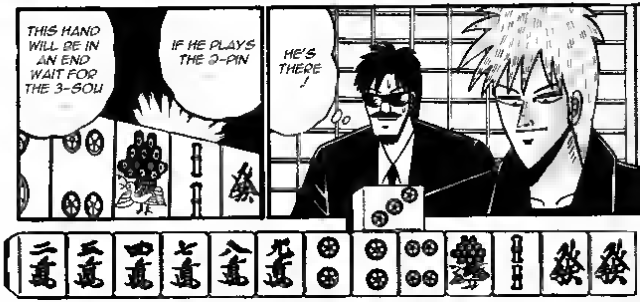
HIS ONLY CONCERN IS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING THE HIGH WAGER HE MADE AND THAT ALONE
AT THE MOMENT, ONE OR TWO TSUMOS WOULDN'T CHANGE THINGS UP TOO MUCH
THAT IS WHY HE STILL REMAINS CAUTIOUS
HMM HM-HM
THE 28,400 POINT DIFFERENCE
THINKING ABOUT THE VISIBLE SITUATION
THERE IS NO NEED FOR HIM TO PUSH HIMSELF
1300/ 700
TSUMO!
HE DRAWS HIS WINNING TILE!
HIS HAND IS COMPLETED!
AND IN A FEW MORE ROUNDS
THE GAP BETWEEN THESE TWO MEN HAS WIDENED TO 33,500 POINTS.
HEHE HE...
WITH THIS WIN, UKABE'S POINT TOTAL HAS RISEN TO 55,700, WHILE AKAGI'S MOVES TO 21,900
IN THE END, AKAGI'S WISH DID NOT SUCCEED.
URGH
AKAGI, AFTER SEVEN TURNS
AND THEN, IN THE NEXT ROUND, THE SOUTH SECOND ROUND...

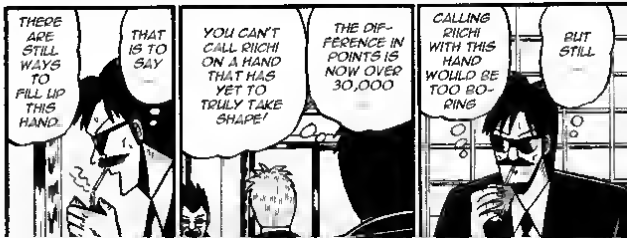

...REACHES TENPAI!


IT'S TWO DRAWS AWAY FROM A CHANTA, SAN SHOKU HAND...


AND JUST ONE TILE AWAY FROM A 2-3-4 SAN SHOKU HAND...

WHA-!
HMM-HM
WOULD BE GI-VING UP ON BOTH OF THOSE POSSI-BILITIES
A RI-CHI


THIS HAND WILL BE IN AN END WAIT FOR THE 3-SOU
IF HE PLAYS THE 2-PIN
HE'S THERE!


THERE ARE STILL WAYS TO FILL UP THIS HAND...
THAT IS TO SAY
YOU CAN'T CALL RICHI ON A HAND THAT HAS YET TO TRULY TAKE SHAPE!
THE DIF-FERENCE IN POINTS IS NOW OVER 30,000
CALLING RICHI WITH THIS HAND WOULD BE TOO BO-RING
BUT STILL

RIICHI!

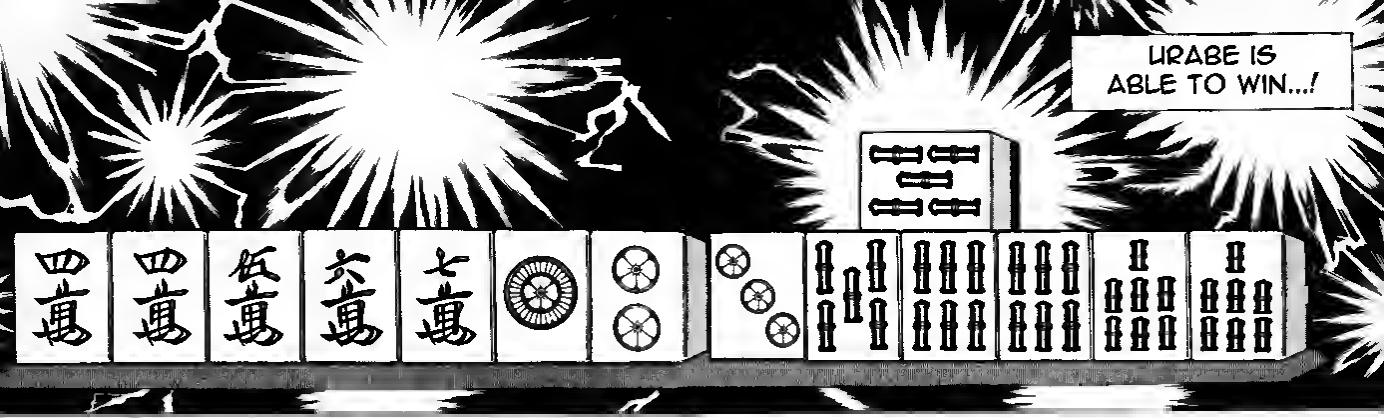
WH
WHY
?!

NO WAY

WHY WOULD YOU RICHI WITH THIS SHAPE?!
AKAGI DRAWS THE 4-SOU!!
ON HIS TSUMO-TSUI DRAW ...
BUT ...
YOU CAN STILL WAIT FOR THE 4-SOU, OR THE 1-MAN AND 1-PIN!!
DON'T YOU SEE THAT YOUR HAND ISN'T FINISHED YET?!
THE WORST DRAW!!
HE RICHIS AGAIN RIGHT AFTER HE GETS TENPAI
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOIN'?
THIS KID

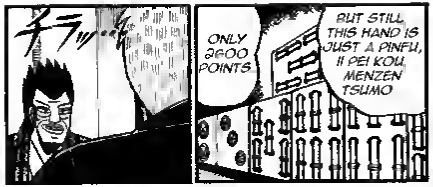
I SHOULD JUST DEAL SAFE TILES FOR THE TIME BEING...
AT LEAST 'TILL I FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S UP TO.
WELL, WHATEVER.
SHOULD BE TO AVOID GIVIN' 'IM THE DORA, XIA...
THAT'D BE AN INSTANT MANGAN.
THAT'S MO, MY TOP PRIORITY RIGHT NOW
THERE'S ALREADY 3 XIA PLAYED SO FAR...
SO HE CAN'T BE COLLECTIN' THE DORA XIA
NO, NOT JUST THAT...
SO THE DORA PASSES?
LOWER SAN SHOKU...?
OF COURSE...
FROM WHAT HE'S DISCAR-DED SO FAR
SO IN THAT CASE

HE CAN RON OFF THAT TILE, THE 3-SOU...!!
THERE IT IS!!
THE 3-SOU LEAKS FROM HIS HAND!
AND ONCE HE RULES OUT THAT POSSIBILITY...
WHEN URABE SEES THE TILES AKAGI PREVIOUSLY PLAYED,
1-PIN AND 4-SOU
BUT THAT SUSPICION OF LOWER SAN SHOKU VANISHES
IF HE GETS ANY URA-DORA AT ALL
IT CAN TURN INTO A 5200-POINT HAND!
GUT
AKAGI DOES NOT MOVE...
HE IGNORES THIS 3-SOU...!
ON URABE'S 15TH TURN...
AND THEN...
WHY...?
WHY AREN'T YOU TAKING IT?!
IT'S A DIRECT HIT ON URABE...!!
GH...!


URABE IS ABLE TO WIN...!

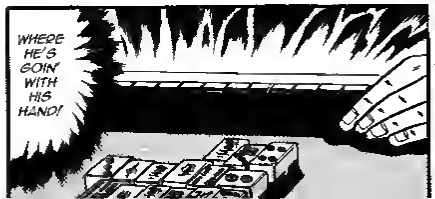
I MAY AS WELL TAKE A LOOK--SEE AT WHAT HE'S GOT!
THE GAME'S OVER IN 3 MORE TURNS
RATHER THAN WIN OFF A THIS TRASH HAND

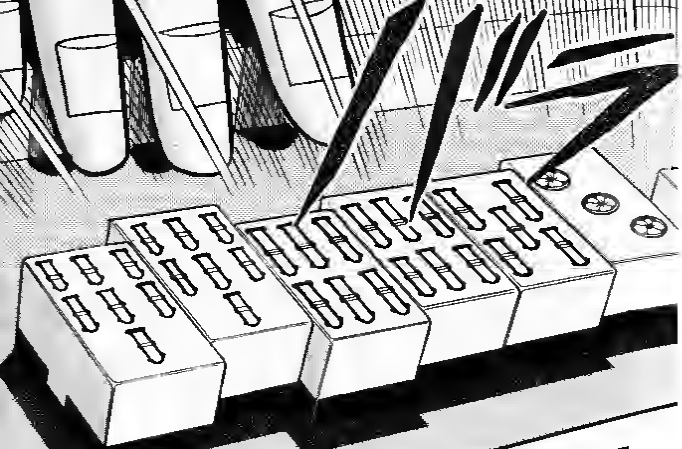
THE GAME ENDS
ENDED UP CAUSING BOTH URABE AND AKAGI TO GIVE UP ON THEIR WINNING HANDS!
SOME-HOW THIS ROUND
HMM-HM


ONLY 3600 POINTS
BUT STILL THIS HAND IS JUST A PINFU, II PEI KOU, MENZEN TSUMO

HEH MY WINNIN' TILE...

AND I STILL WANT TO SEE...

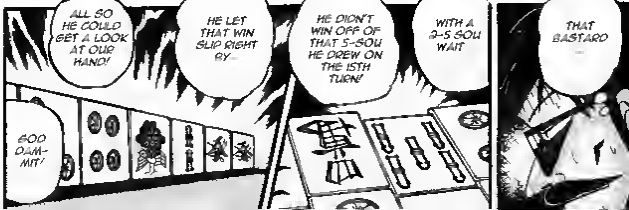

WHERE HE'S GOIN' WITH HIS HAND!



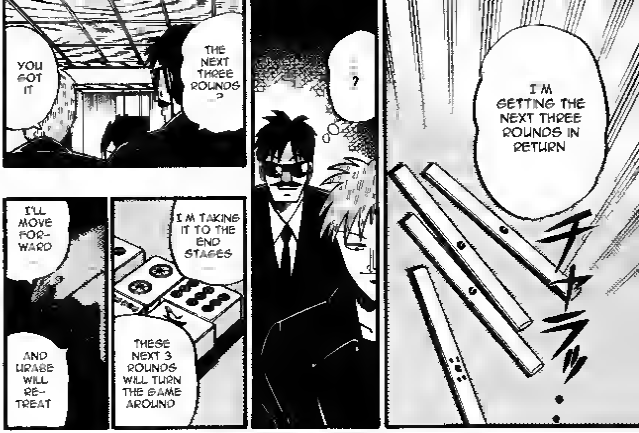
I'M IN TENPAI
HEH-HEH-HEH!

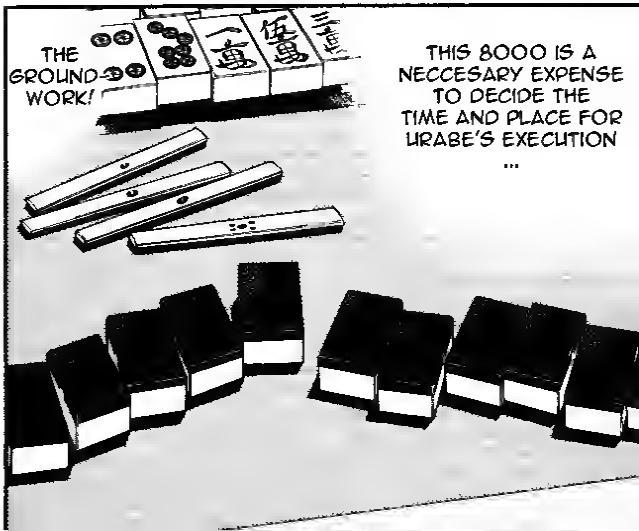
HEH HEH
DAMN
IF HE CAN SO MUCH LOOK AT IT
THAT'S SOMETHING WE'D WANT TO AVOID
AWRIGHT, AKAGI-HAN
LET'S SEE THAT RIICHI OF YOURS
SHOW ME WHY DON'T YA
THAT PRE-EMPTIVE RIICHI
HMM-HM
HE CAN GET SOME THING WITH THAT DEMONIC ABILITY OF HIS!

AH,
RICH

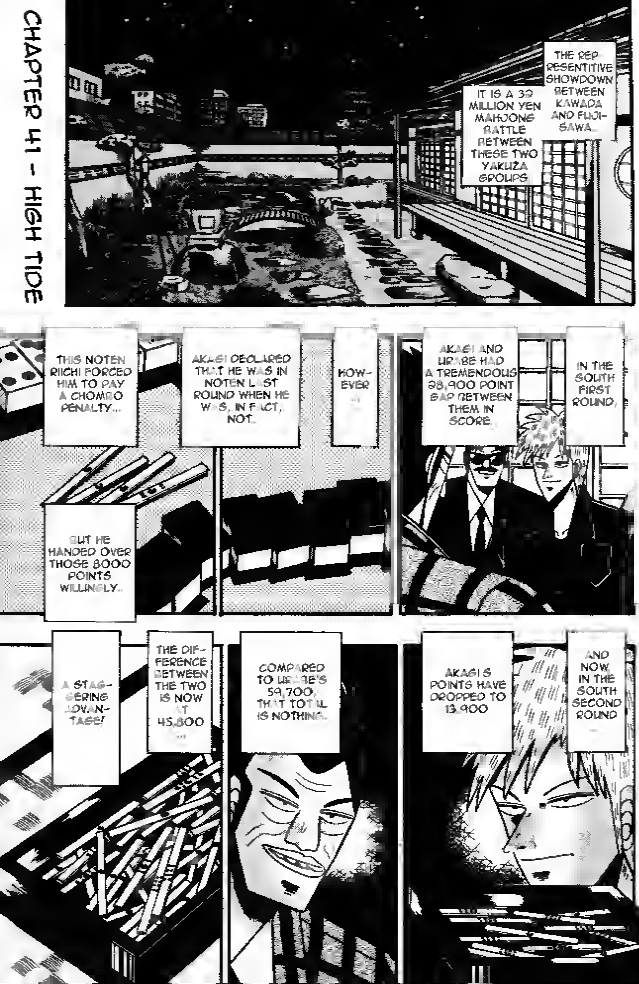

ALL SO HE COULD GET A LOOK AT OUR HAND!
HE LET THAT WIN SLIP RIGHT BY...
HE DIDN'T WIN OFF OF THAT 5-SOU HE DREW ON THE 15TH TURN!
WITH A 2-5 SOU WAIT
THAT BASTARD
GOD DAM-MIT!

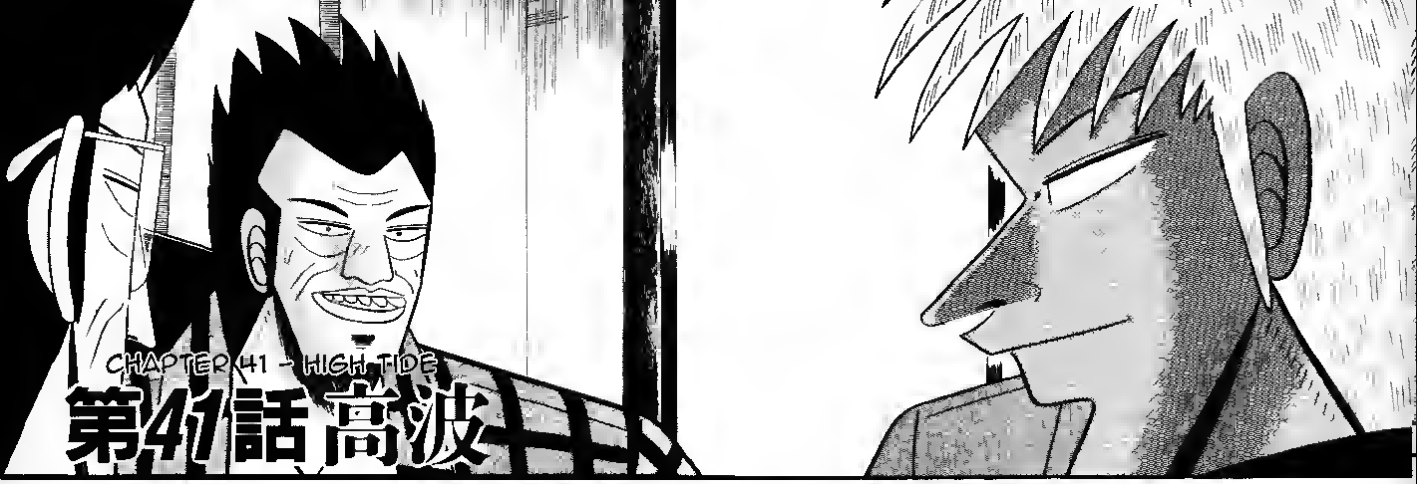
I KNOW YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO SHOW HIM YOUR HAND RIGHT NOW
EH...?
BUT THE 8000-POINT NOTEN RIICHI PENALTY IS JUST TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW!
IT REALLY IS WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW
IT'S FINE
HUH...?
THAT 8000 IS WELL-SPENT
YEP
WELL SPENT...?
URABE GETS HIS POINTS FOR NOW
THAT FURTHERS HIS LEAD
AND AS FOR ME
EH...?
.....
YOU GOT ME...
I'M IN NOTEN
AKAGI!!
WHA...?!


YOU GOT IT
THE NEXT THREE ROUNDS ?
?
I'M GETTING THE NEXT THREE ROUNDS IN RETURN
チャラッ
I'LL MOVE FOR-WARD
AND URABE WILL RE-TREAT
I'M TAKING IT TO THE END STAGES
THESE NEXT 3 ROUNDS WILL TURN THE GAME AROUND


THE GROUND-WORK!
THIS 8000 IS A NECCESARY EXPENSE TO DECIDE THE TIME AND PLACE FOR URABE'S EXECUTION
...

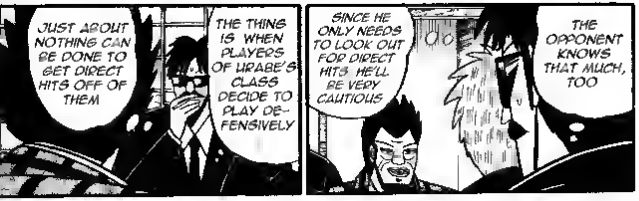
CHAPTER 41 - HIGH TIDE

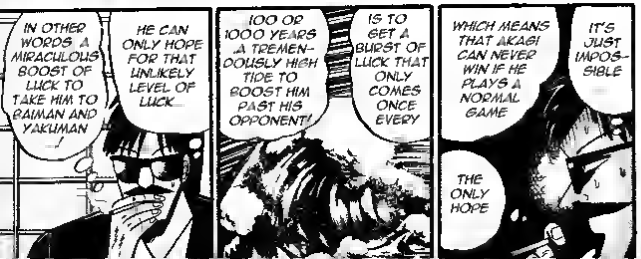

THE REPRESENTITIVE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN KAWADA AND FUJISAWA...
IT IS A 30 MILLION YEN MAHJONG BATTLE BETWEEN THESE TWO YAKUZA GROUPS
IN THE SOUTH FIRST ROUND
AKAGI AND URABE HAD A TREMENDOUS 98,900 POINT GAP BETWEEN THEM IN SCORE.
HOWEVER ...
AKAGI DECLARED THAT HE WAS IN NOTEN LAST ROUND WHEN HE WAS, IN FACT, NOT.
THIS NOTEN RIICHI FORCED HIM TO PAY A CHOMBO PENALTY...
BUT HE HANDED OVER THOSE 8000 POINTS WILLINGLY...
AND NOW, IN THE SOUTH SECOND ROUND ...
AKAGI'S POINTS HAVE DROPPED TO 13,900
COMPARED TO URABE'S 59,700, THAT TOTAL IS NOTHING...
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO IS NOW AT 45,800 ...
A STAGGERING DOWNTAGE!

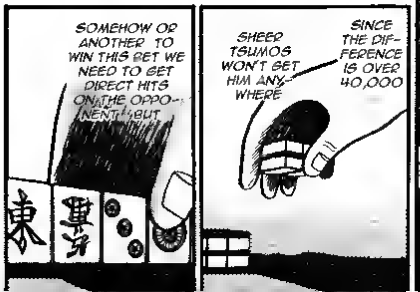


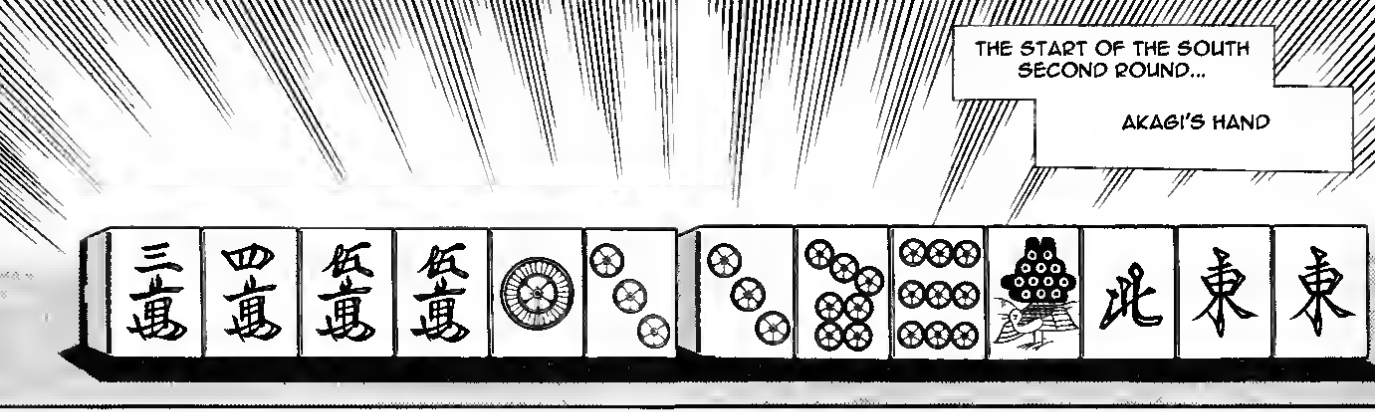
CHAPTER 41 - HIGH TIDE

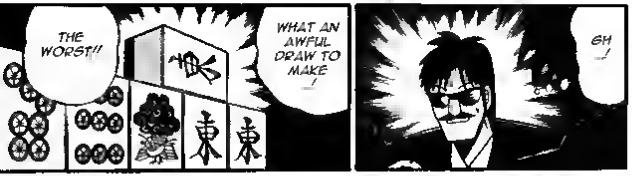
第41話 高波

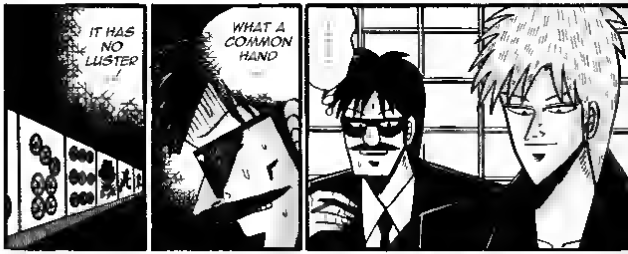

JUST ABOUT NOTHING CAN BE DONE TO GET DIRECT HITS OFF OF THEM
THE THING IS WHEN PLAYERS OF URABE'S CLASS DECIDE TO PLAY DEFENSIVELY
SINCE HE ONLY NEEDS TO LOOK OUT FOR DIRECT HITS, HE'LL BE VERY CAUTIOUS
THE OPPONENT KNOWS THAT MUCH, TOO

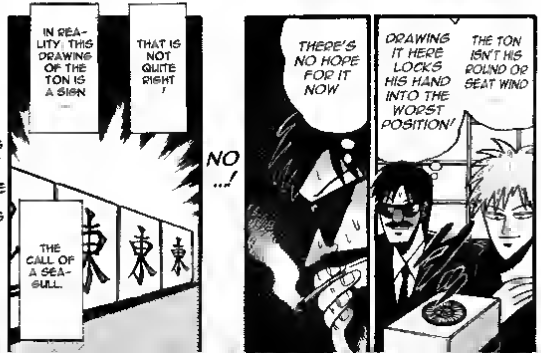

IN OTHER WORDS, A MIRACULOUS BOOST OF LUCK TO TAKE HIM TO RAIMAN AND YAKUMAN!
HE CAN ONLY HOPE FOR THAT UNLIKELY LEVEL OF LUCK...
100 OR 1000 YEARS, A TREMENDOUSLY HIGH TIDE TO BOOST HIM PAST HIS OPPONENT!
IS TO GET A BURST OF LUCK THAT ONLY COMES ONCE EVERY
WHICH MEANS THAT AKAGI CAN NEVER WIN IF HE PLAYS A NORMAL GAME
IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE
THE ONLY HOPE

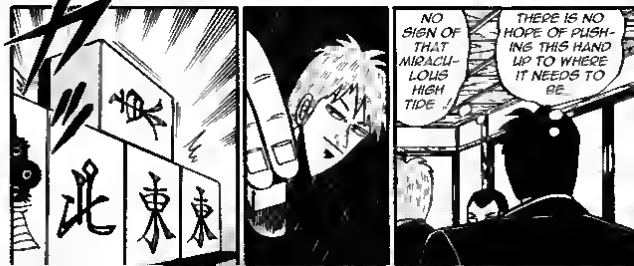

SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER TO WIN THIS BET WE NEED TO GET DIRECT HITS ON THE OPPONENT, BUT
SHEER TSUMOS WON'T GET HIM ANYWHERE
SINCE THE DIFFERENCE IS OVER 40,000


THE START OF THE SOUTH SECOND ROUND...
AKAGI'S HAND

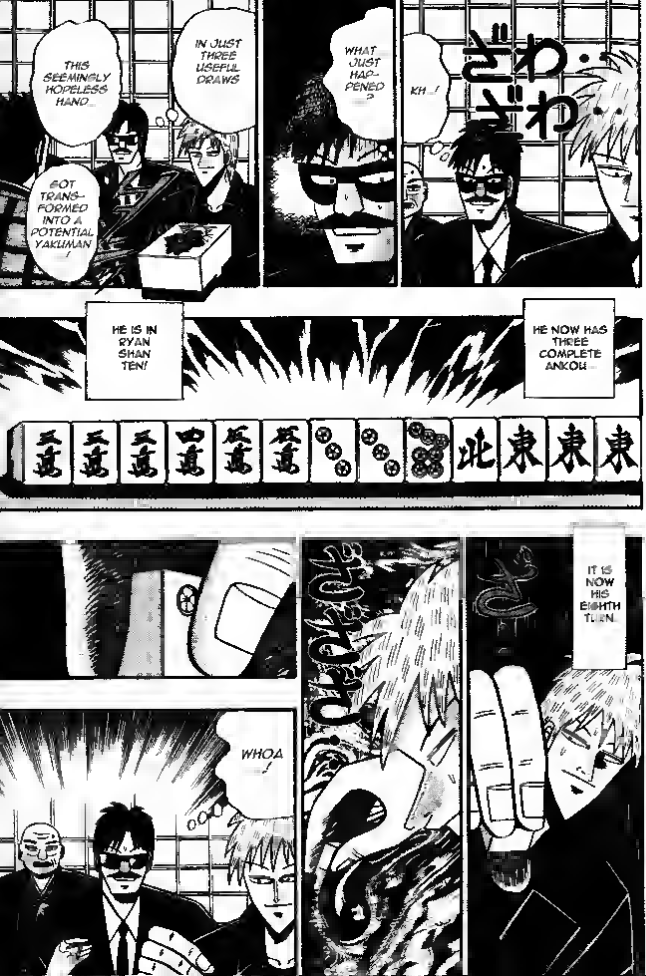

THE WORST!!
WHAT AN AWFUL DRAW TO MAKE!
GH!

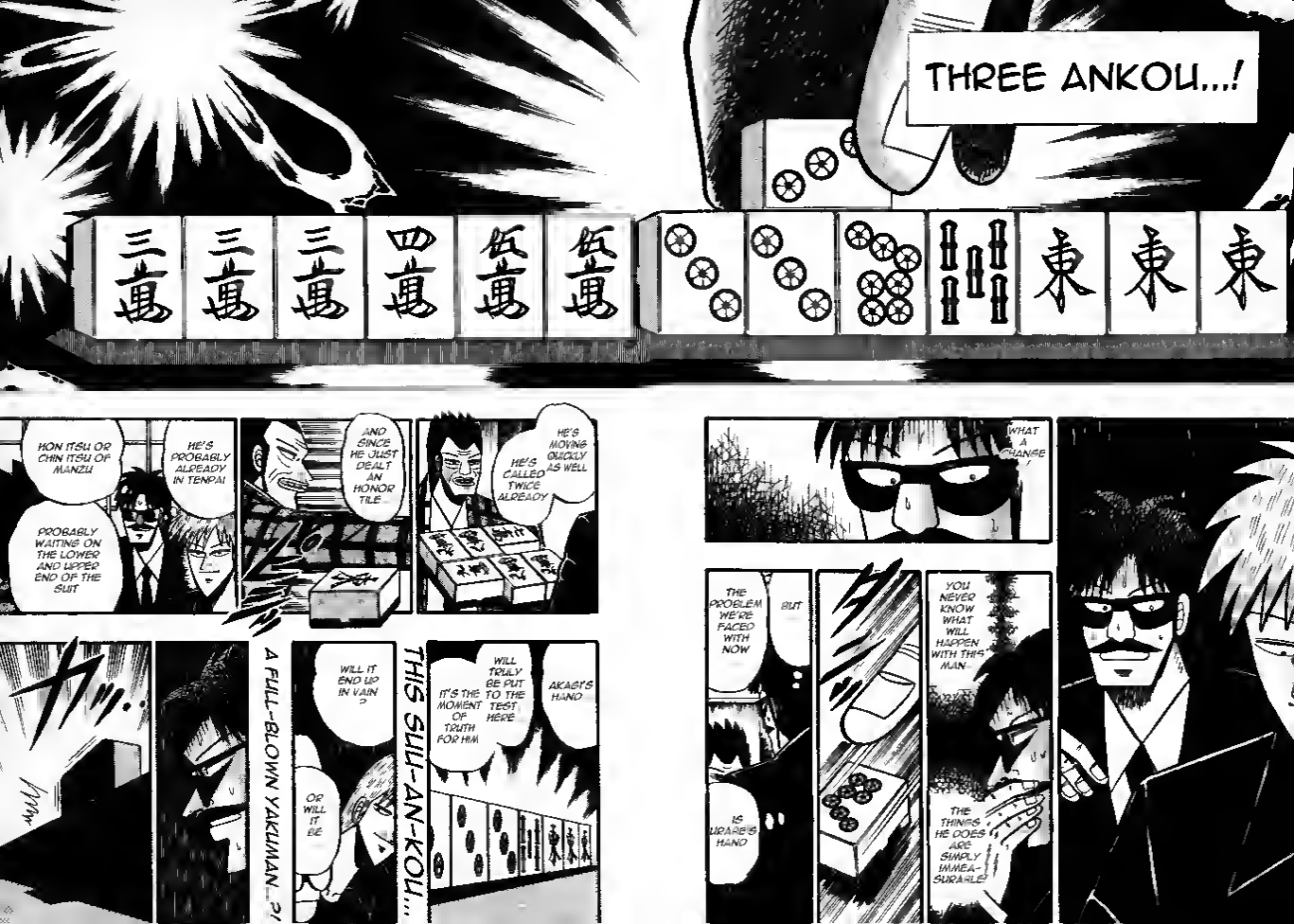

IT HAS NO LUSTER!
WHAT A COMMON HAND

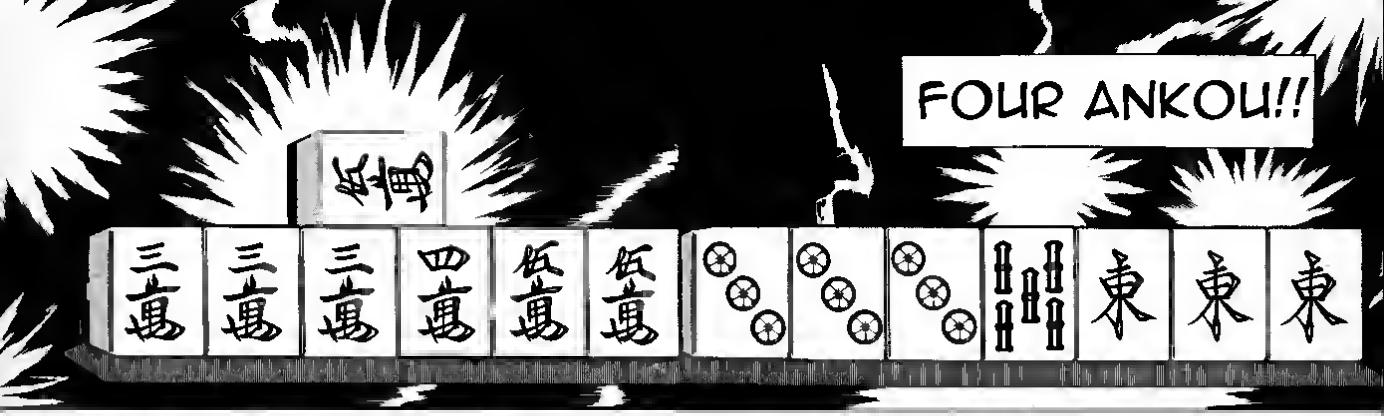

INFORMING THE PLAYER ABOUT THE MIRACULOUS OCCURANCE THAT ONLY COMES ONCE IN 100 OR 1000 YEARS
IN REALITY, THIS DRAWING OF THE TON IS A SIGN
THAT IS NOT QUITE RIGHT!
THE CALL OF A SEA-GULL
NO...!
THERE'S NO HOPE FOR IT NOW
DRAWING IT HERE LOCKS HIS HAND INTO THE WORST POSITION!
THE TON ISN'T HIS ROUND OR SEAT WIND


NO SIGN OF THAT MIRACULOUS HIGH TIDE...
THERE IS NO HOPE OF PUSHING THIS HAND UP TO WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE.

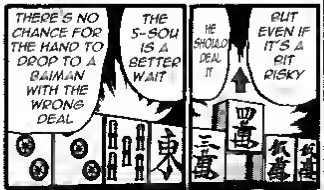
THE HIGHEST TIDE ...!
WHA ...?!

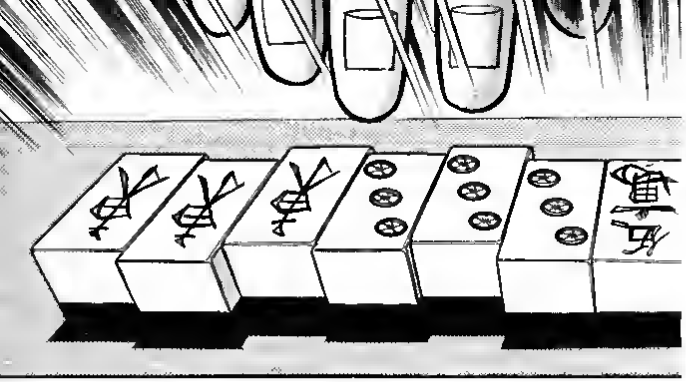

THIS SEEMINGLY HOPELESS HAND...
IN JUST THREE USEFUL DRAWS
GOT TRANS-FORMED INTO A POTENTIAL YAKUMAN!
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?
KH...!
ざわ・ざわ
HE IS IN RYAN SHAN TEN!
HE NOW HAS THREE COMPLETE ANKOU...
IT IS NOW HIS EIGHTH TURN.
WHOA!

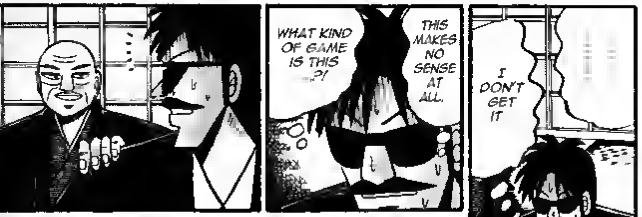

THREE ANKOU...!
三萬 三萬 三萬 四萬 伍萬 伍萬
東 東 東
HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY IN TENPAI
RYON ITSU OR CHIN ITSU OF MANZU
PROBABLY WAITING ON THE LOWER AND UPPER END OF THE SUIT
AND SINCE HE JUST DEALT AN HONOR TILE
HE'S CALLED TWICE ALREADY
HE'S MOVING QUICKLY AS WELL
WHAT A CHANGE
THE PROBLEM WE'RE FACED WITH NOW
IS URABE'S HAND
BUT
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THIS MAN
THE THINGS HE DOES ARE SIMPLY IMMEASURABLE!
AKAGI'S HAND
WILL TRULY BE PUT TO THE TEST HERE
IT'S THE MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR HIM
THIS SUU-AN-KOU...
WILL IT END UP IN VAIN ?
OR WILL IT BE
A FULL-BLOWN YAKUMAN_?!



AND MOREOVER, WHY ON A VARIABLE WAIT?!

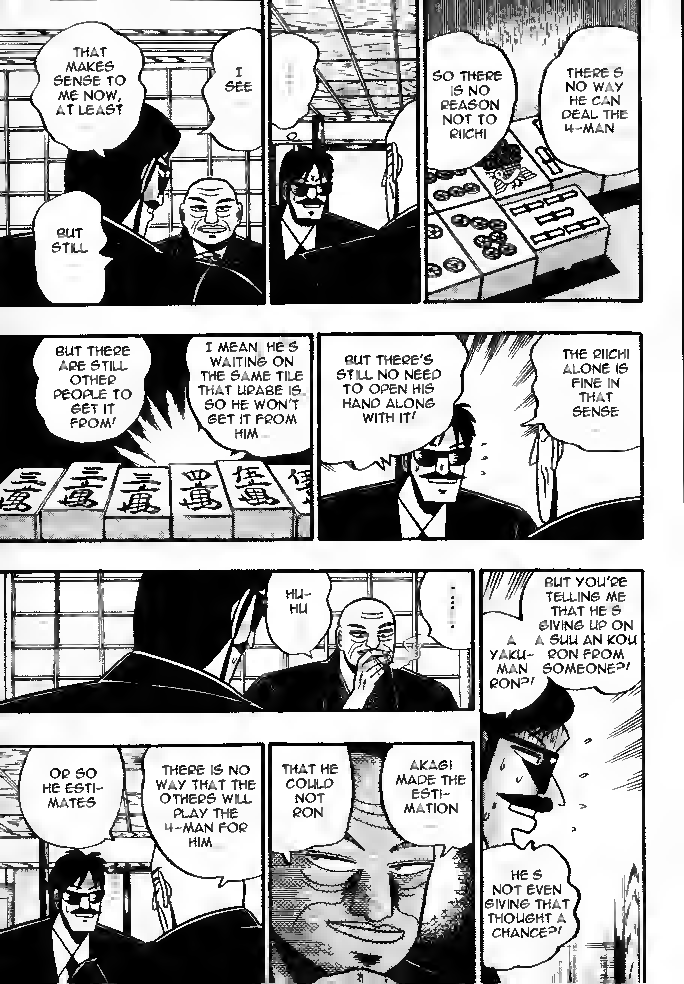

THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR THE HAND TO DROP TO A BAIMAN WITH THE WRONG DEAL
THE 5-SOU IS A BETTER WAIT
HE SHOULD DEAL IT
BUT EVEN IF IT'S A BIT RISKY



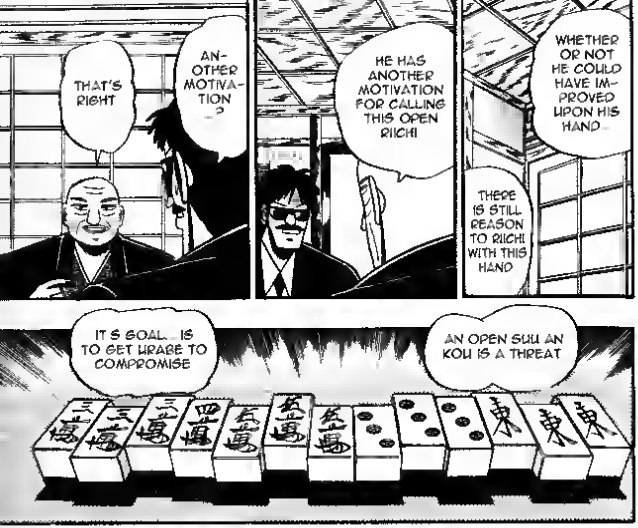


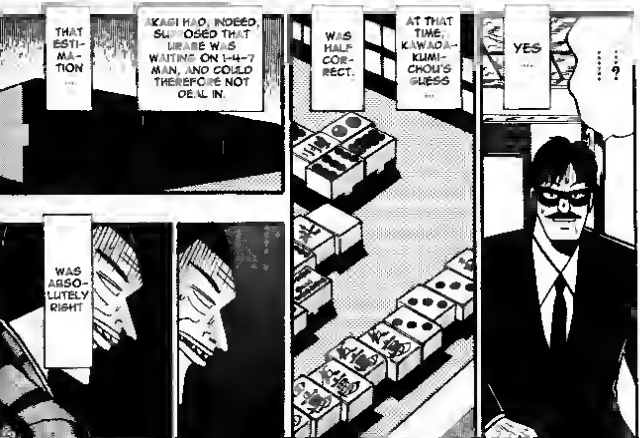
T/N KUMICHOU = YAKUZA BOSS

WITHIN REASON ?
QUITE
HIS DECISION WAS RATHER SELF-RIGHTEOUS
AND WHAT'S MORE, IT WAS MORE OR LESS SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT
IT'S BASED ON A GENERAL READ
BUT WE ORDINARY PEOPLE
MIGHT THINK THAT IT'S RATHER STRANGE.
!
!
?
SO WHAT WAS HIS READ THEN ?
IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE
HE KNOWS THAT URABE IS WAITING ON THE 1-4, AND 7 MAN
SO, ISHIKAWA, KNOWING THAT, WHAT CAN HE DO?
HUH?
RIGHT NOW ISHIKAWA HE IS USING THAT SPECIAL ABILITY OF HIS
HE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH URABE'S TILES, LIKE THEY ARE TRANSPARENT.
AND SINCE HE CAN SEE THOSE TILES CLEARLY
LOOK AT HIS HAND AND YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY
THAT HE CANNOT DEAL THAT 4-MAN
IF HE WERE TO DEAL IT, URABE WOULD CALL RON WITHOUT HESITATION.
THAT IS WHY HE CAN NOT.


THAT MAKES SENSE TO ME NOW, AT LEAST
I SEE
BUT STILL
SO THERE IS NO REASON NOT TO RICHI
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN DEAL THE 4-MAN
BUT THERE ARE STILL OTHER PEOPLE TO GET IT FROM!
I MEAN, HE'S WAITING ON THE SAME TILE THAT UBABE IS, SO HE WON'T GET IT FROM HIM...
BUT THERE'S STILL NO NEED TO OPEN HIS HAND ALONG WITH IT!
THE RICHI ALONE IS FINE IN THAT SENSE
HU-HU
BUT YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT HE'S GIVING UP ON A YAKU-MAN RON?!
A SUU AN KOU RON FROM SOMEONE?!
OR SO HE ESTI-MATES
THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE OTHERS WILL PLAY THE 4-MAN FOR HIM
THAT HE COULD NOT RON
AKAGI MADE THE ESTI-MATION
HE'S NOT EVEN GIVING THAT THOUGHT A CHANCE?!

IF ANY-ONE WERE TO PLAY IT, IT WOULD BE THE PLAYER TO AKAGI'S RIGHT..
THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD PLAY MANZU TILES WHEN URABE IS GOING FOR THAT SUIT ...
ALL OF HIS DIS-CARDS HAVE BEEN PLAYING IT SAFE...
HE WAS OUT OF IT CLOSE TO THE START..
THE PLAYER TO AKAGI'S LEFT.
TAKE A LOOK.
URABE IS ABLE TO HEAD-BUMP THE TILE AWAY FROM HIM.
AKAGI WOULD STILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET IT.
BUT EVEN IF HE WERE TO PLAY THE 4-MAN THAT AKAGI NEEDS...
HE CAN ONLY TSUMO, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
SO, IN THAT WAY, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE DOES AN OPEN RIICHI OR NOT
SO, ANY WAY THAT YOU LOOK AT IT,
AKAGI CAN NOT GET THE 4-MAN FROM A RON
BUT IN THIS CASE, NONE OF THAT MATTERS
BEFORE EVEN WINNING OR NOT WINNING, YOU NEED TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN IMPROVE UPON THE HAND YOU HAVE
OF COURSE, BEFORE YOU RIICHI,


THAT'S RIGHT
ANOTHER MOTIVATION...?
HE HAS ANOTHER MOTIVATION FOR CALLING THIS OPEN RIICHI
WHETHER OR NOT HE COULD HAVE IMPROVED UPON HIS HAND...
THERE IS STILL REASON TO RIICHI WITH THIS HAND
IT'S GOAL... IS TO GET URABE TO COMPROMISE
AN OPEN SUU AN KOU IS A THREAT


THAT ESTIMATION...
AKAGI HAD, INDEED, SUPPOSED THAT URABE WAS WAITING ON 1-4-7 MAN, AND COULD THEREFORE NOT DEAL IN.
WAS HALF-CORRECT.
AT THAT TIME, KAWADA-KUMICHOU'S GUESS...
YES...
.....?
WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

URABE'S 1-4-7 MAN WAIT

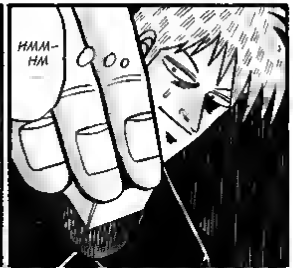
BUT HE COULD CHANGE ALL'A THAT IN JUST ONE MORE DRAW!!
THE DIF-FERENCE BETWEEN US IS 45,800

HE CAN TAKE AWAY EVERY-THIN' I'VE BEEN BUILDIN' TOWARDS!
IF HE CAN DRAW THE TILE HE NEEDS TO WIN

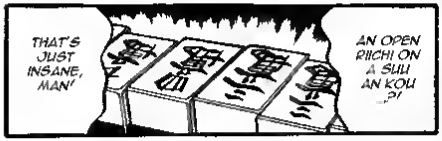
EVEN IF IT'S AN INSANE WAY TO PLAY
BUT

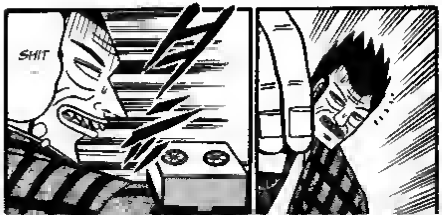
IT CAN'T BE ..?!

KH--!

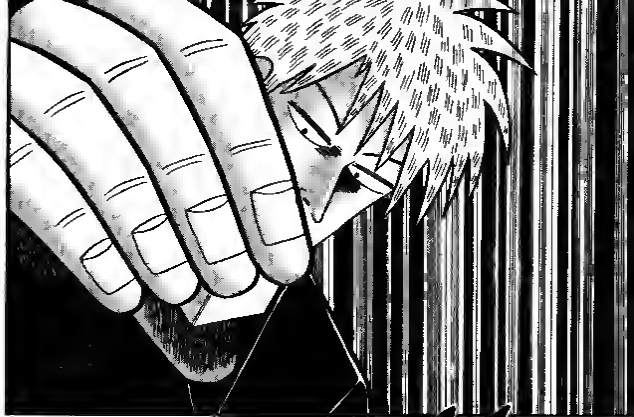

HMM-HM

WHO IS THIS KID?!
DAMMIT

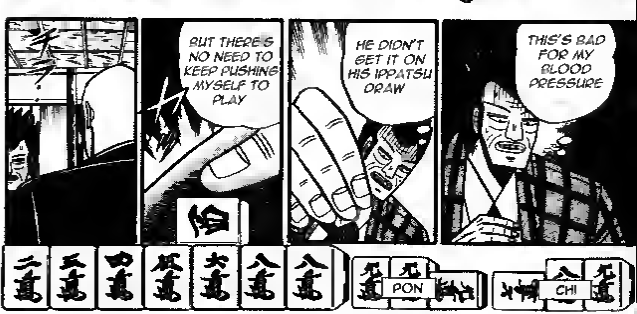

THAT'S JUST INSANE, MAN!
AN OPEN RIICHI ON A SUU AN KOU ..?!


SHIT

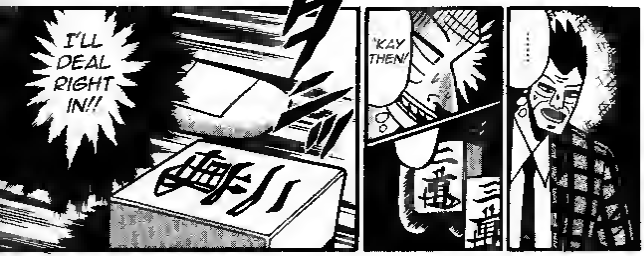
ざわ..



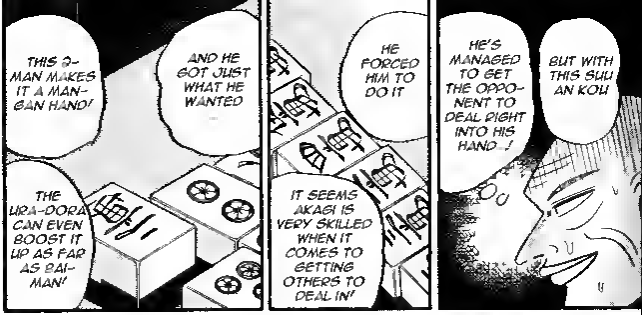
WHEW

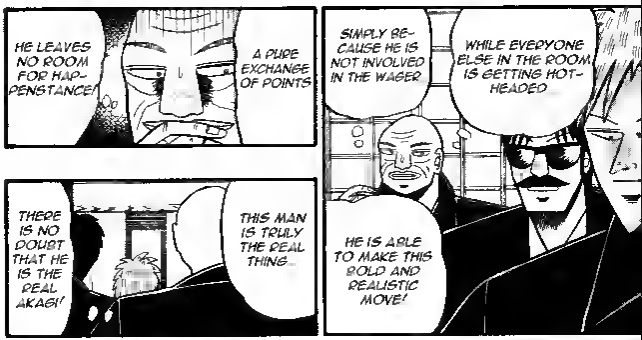

BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP PUSHING MYSELF TO PLAY
HE DIDN'T GET IT ON HIS IPPATSU DRAW
THIS'S BAD FOR MY BLOOD PRESSURE
PON
CHI

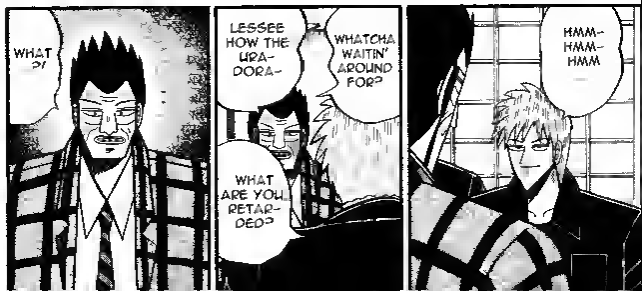
HEY, KAWADA-KUMI-CHOU.
Y'KNOW THAT MORONIC RULE WHERE DEALIN' INTO AN OPEN RIICHI MAKES IT AN INSTANT YAKUMAN HAND?
YOU DON'T HAVE THAT HERE, DO YA?
.....
NO
WE DO NOT.


'KAY THEN!
.....
I'LL DEAL RIGHT IN!!

AH..!
THERE IT IS!!
SO THIS WAS AKAGI'S PLAN!
GETTING A DIRECT HIT ON URABE
WAS THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE WITH THE WAGER AS IT WAS..!


THIS 2-MAN MAKES IT A MAN-GAN HAND!
AND HE GOT JUST WHAT HE WANTED
THE URA-DORA CAN EVEN BOOST IT UP AS FAR AS BAI-MAN!
HE FORCED HIM TO DO IT
IT SEEMS AKAGI IS VERY SKILLED WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING OTHERS TO DEAL IN!
HE'S MANAGED TO GET THE OPPO-NENT TO DEAL RIGHT INTO HIS HAND..!
BUT WITH THIS SUU AN KOU


HE LEAVES NO ROOM FOR HAP-PENSTANCE!
A PURE EXCHANGE OF POINTS
SIMPLY BE-CAUSE HE IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE WAGER
WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE ROOM IS GETTING HOT-HEADED
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE IS THE REAL AKAGI!
THIS MAN IS TRULY THE REAL THING...
HE IS ABLE TO MAKE THIS BOLD AND REALISTIC MOVE!


WHAT?!
LESSEE HOW THE URA-DORA-
WHATCHA WAITIN' AROUND FOR?
WHAT ARE YOU RETAR-DED?
HMM-HMM-HMM

KEEP THE GAME GOING.
I DON'T INTEND TO WIN OFF OF CHEAP HANDS.
WHA...?!
ざわ...
ざわ...
ざわ...
.....
IN OTHER WORDS
RIGHT NOW HIS HAND IS IN NO SHAPE TO WIN
AND SO...
HE MADE THE ASSUMPTION THAT I WOULD ACCEPT HIS OFFER...
AND CRIPPLED HIMSELF, THINKING IT WAS OVER.
JUST NOW, URABE TOOK PART HIS HAND IN ORDER TO TRY AND DEAL INTO MINE.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
AKAGI!!
OF COURSE I'M SERIOUS.

OF COURSE I WON'T QUIT.
I'LL CATCH UP, NOW THAT HE HAS STOPPED.
WITH THIS SUU AN KOU.
WHA...?!

第42話 封殺

CHAPTER 42 - SUPPRESSION

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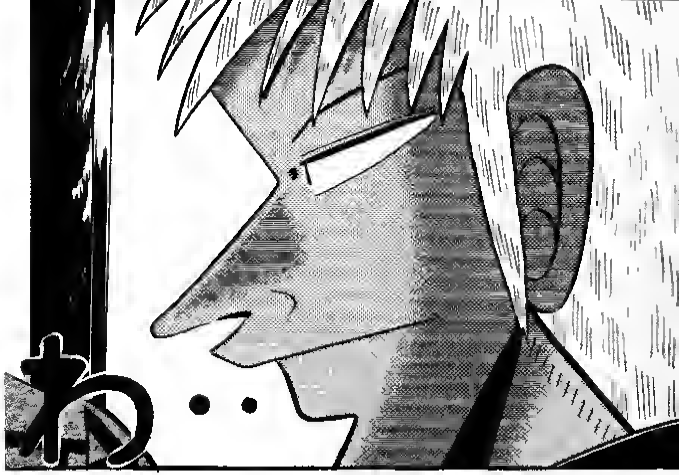
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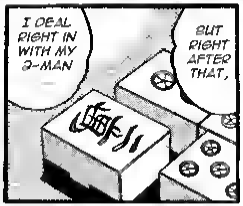
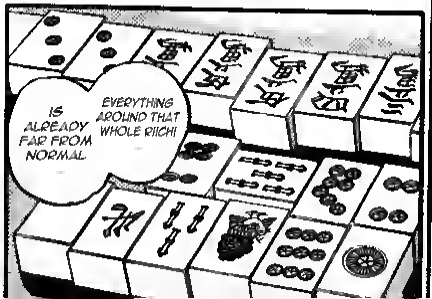
BUT HE OVERLOOKS ALL A THAT, TOO?!
I OFFER 'IM A SAN AN KOU MANGAN HAND

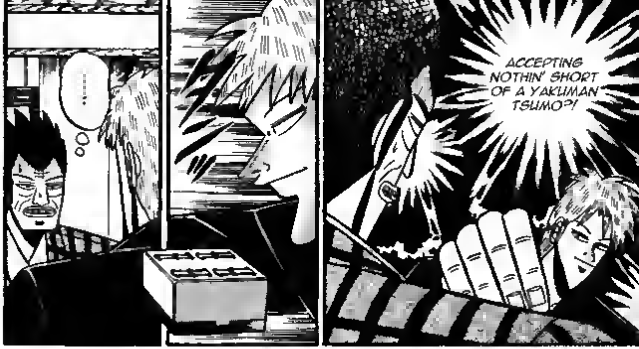

I DEAL RIGHT IN WITH MY 2-MAN
BUT RIGHT AFTER THAT,

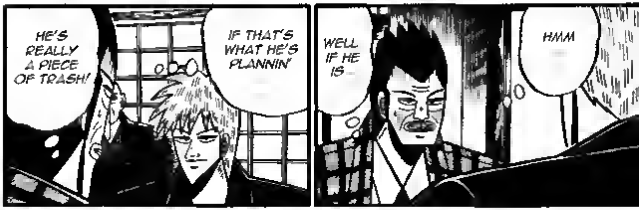
ON COM-PLETING THIS SUU AN KOU ?
HE'S REALLY SET

THE VARIABLE-WAIT OPEN RIICHI
THAT SINGLE-WAIT SUU AN KOU


IS ALREADY FAR FROM NORMAL
EVERYTHING AROUND THAT WHOLE RIICHI

WHAT'S THIS KID'S DEAL?


ACCEPTING NOTHIN' SHORT OF A YAKUMAN TSUMO?!


HE'S REALLY A PIECE OF TRASH!
IF THAT'S WHAT HE'S PLANNIN'
WELL IF HE IS
HMM

DON'T PRESS YOUR LUCK FOR AN UNCERT. IN YAKUMAN, GODDAMMIT!
THAT'S WHAT HE SHOULD'VE DONE!
THE DIFFERENCE OF 45,200 BETWEEN US
WOULD SHRINK DOWN TO 29,800!
THAT MANGAN IS THE BEST YOU COULD POSSIBLY HOPE FOR!
RIGHT NOW, NO MATTER WHAT IT'D SAY ABOUT YOU
IF HE'D'VE TAKEN THAT MANGAN JUST NOW

HE WON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT HOW LITTLE TIME HE H..S LEFT...?!
EVEN NOW, WHEN TIME IS RUNNIN' OUT!
EVEN NOW ...
HE JUST WON'T COMPRO-MISE WITH ME...
HE JUST MISSED THE BEST CHANCE HE'LL EVER GET TO WIN A DIRECT HIT MANGAN OFF A HIS OPPONENT!
IT'S JUST COMMON SENSE!
IF HE CAN'T WIN WITH THIS...
IS TO TRY AND SEND ME TO THE GRAVE ...!
THE GOAL OF THAT SULLAN KOU...
BUT EVEN STILL ...
... IS DOWN-RIGHT WEAK!
THIS KID'S GAM-BLIN' SENSE ...
FIRST OFF, MAKE NO MIS-TAKE...
WILL F..LL RIGHT OFF WITH IT!!
ANY CHANCE OF 'IM WINNIN'
AND ALONG WITH THAT CHANCE FALLIN' OFF A THE FACE OF THE EARTH ...

URABE'S HAND
14TH TURN
AND IT'S THE 2-MAN AGAIN !
HE JUST GAVE UP A TSUMO WIN
URGH !
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
SO HE'S REALLY ONLY LOO-KIN' FOR A SUU AN KOU...
DID THAT MESS UP THE MOMENTUM I HAD WITH MY DRAWS...?
WHEN I GAVE HIM THE 2-MAN HE NEEDED TO WIN
BACK THEN, WHEN I TRIED TO DEAL INTO HIS HAND
CAN'T SEEM TO GET ANY MANZU TILES
.....
HMPH
SHIT
YOU'LL BE SHOT DOWN IN FLAMES!
WHAT KINDA GAME IS THAT TO PLAY?!
HE'S JUST CRAZY
HAS JUST BEEN FOL-LOWIN' HIS GUT
UP TO NOW, THAT KID

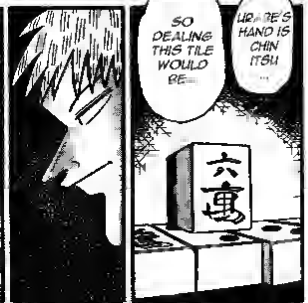
6 AND 9 MAN DOUBLE WAIT!
I GOT MY TENPAI AGAIN!
I GOT IT...!
AKAGI...
BUT THEN...
ON THE 15TH TURN...
I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON...
'BOUT THAT IDIOTIC MAHJONG GAME YOU PLAY!
IT'S ALL OVER NOW...
THAT'S THE END OF IT

三萬
三萬
三萬
四萬
伍萬
伍萬

伍萬
六萬
東
東
東

HE CAN'T DEAL THIS G-MAN AG INST UR BE.

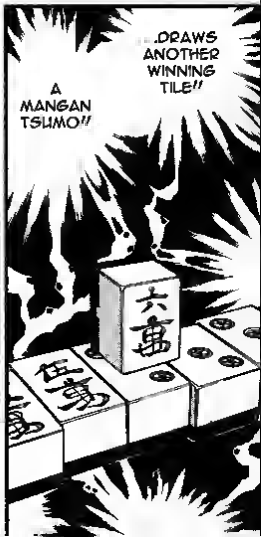
AND MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...
THERE'S STILL NO NEED TO TAKE SUCH A BIG RISK!
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS AKAGI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...


SO DEALING THIS TILE WOULD BE...
UR BE'S HAND IS CHIN ITSU ...
六萬

URGH ...!

HE ONLY HAS 2 MORE TURNS LEFT!
HE CAN'T DRAW IT OUT ANY LONGER, NOW...

HIS VERY LAST WIN-NING TILE ...!
HE GOT IT!!


...DRAWS ANOTHER WINNING TILE!!
A MANGAN TSUMO!!
六萬
伍萬

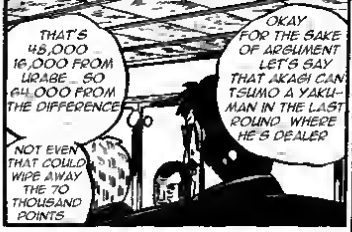
GH
...!!

UN-
BELIE-
VABLE
!!!

WHAT
THE
HELL IS
THIS?

THIS
IS LIKE
TAKIN'
CANDY
FROM A
BABY~
THAT YA
COULDN'T
DEAL THAT
G-MAN!!
BUT YOU
COULDN'T
SENSE
...
NOT ONLY
DID YOU
NOT DRAW
YOUR
SUU AN
KOU...
THIS CAN'T
BE THE
BEST
PLAYER IN
KAWADA'S
GROUP...
.....
NO
GODDAMN
SENSE OF
JUDGEMENT!
YOU PLAY
LIKE A
DRUNKEN
IDIOT
WH T KIND
OF BULLSHIT
PL YIN' STYLE
IS THIS FOR
GAME WORTH
MILLIONS?!

ron.
chin it su. mangan.
gimme 19,000.
i can't be-lieve it...
.....
with this win, urabe has 70,700 points...
and on the other hand
akagi only has measely 900...
there's a 71,800 point difference...
it's a direct hit.
now our points are lower than low
nothing worked out.
akagi's high-handed suu an kou his stubborn unmoving playing style...


THAT'S 48,000 16,000 FROM URABE... SO 64,000 FROM THE DIFFERENCE
NOT EVEN THAT COULD WIPE AWAY THE 70 THOUSAND POINTS
OKAY FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT LET'S SAY THAT AKAGI CAN TSUMO A YAKUMAN IN THE LAST ROUND WHERE HE'S DEALER

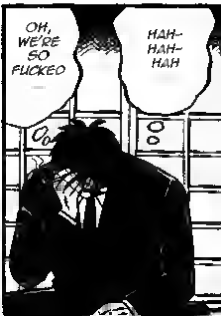
OVER 70,000

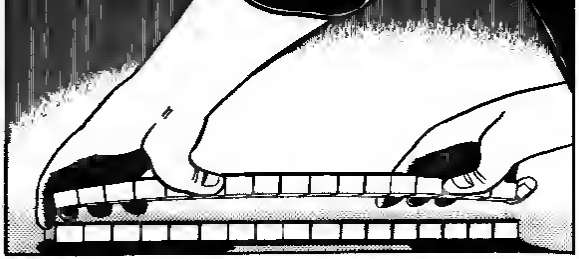
A DIFFERENCE THAT NOT EVEN A DEALER YAKUMAN TSUMO CAN MAKE A DENT IN
.....

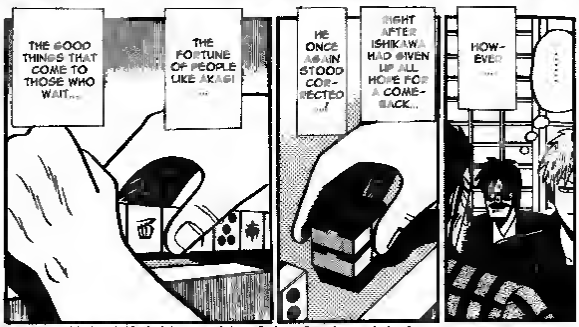
HMM-HMM-HMM

ジャラ ジャラ

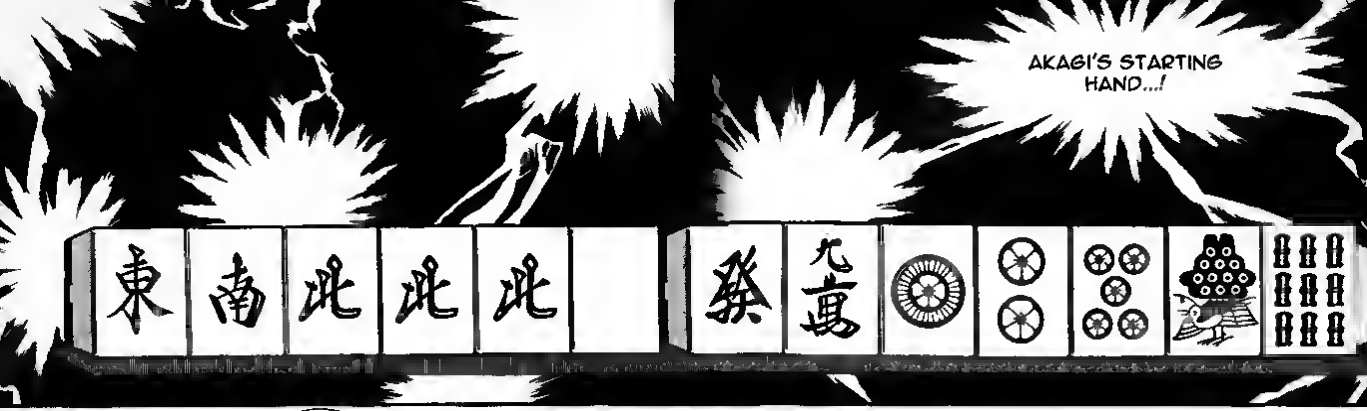
NO EXAGERATION IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE A COMEBACK AT THIS POINT


OH, WE'RE SO FUCKED
HAH-HAH-HAH

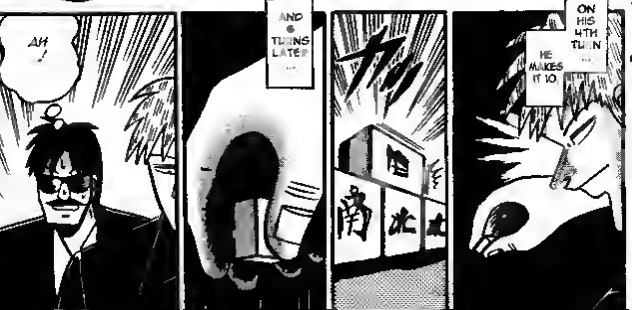



THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT...
THE FORTUNE OF PEOPLE LIKE AKAGI ...
HE ONCE AGAIN STOOD CORRECTED ...!
RIGHT AFTER ISHIKAWA HAD GIVEN UP ALL HOPE FOR A COMEBACK...
HOWEVER ...
.....

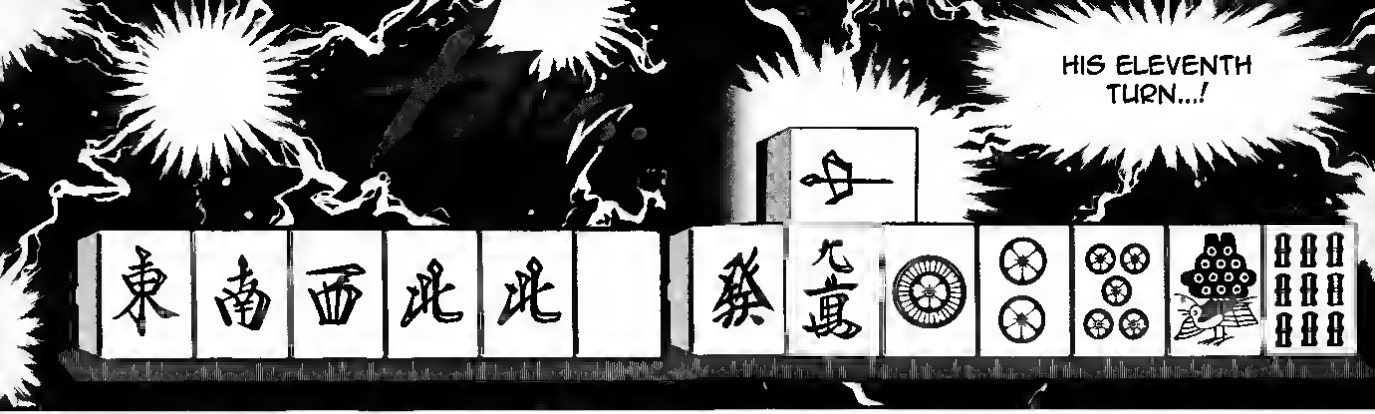
T/N: EACH TIME A DEALER WINS, THEY PAY A SMALL "HONBA" FINE AND THE ROUND AND DEALER STAY WHERE THEY ARE. URAGE IS THE DEALER FOR THE SOUTH SECOND ROUND HERE.

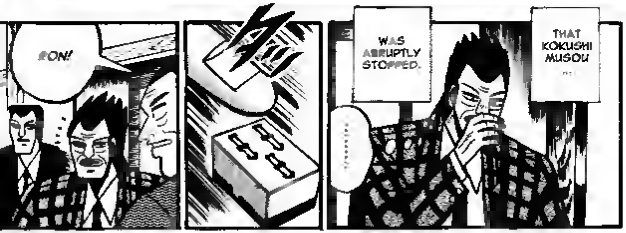


HE CAN MAKE A KOKUSHI WITHOUT HIS OPPONENTS KNOWING, THANKS TO THIS STARTING HAND!
IT'S IDEAL!
THAT WILL GIVE IT A BIT OF A SMOKESCREEN TO DISGUISE ITS TRUE FORM, A KOKUSHI MUSOU!!



T/N: KOKUSHI MUSOU IS A SPECIAL HAND IN MAHJONG WHERE COLLECTING ONE OF ALL OF THE HONORS, WINDS, AND TERMINALS (13 TOTAL) PLUS ONE EXTRA TILE OF ANY OF THOSE (13+1 = 14) WILL MAKE A COMPLETE HAND. VERY RARE, AND THUS IS ONE OF THE YAKUMAN HANDS.


HIS ELEVENTH TURN...!


ION!
WAS ABRUPTLY STOPPED.
THAT KOKUSHI MUSOU ...

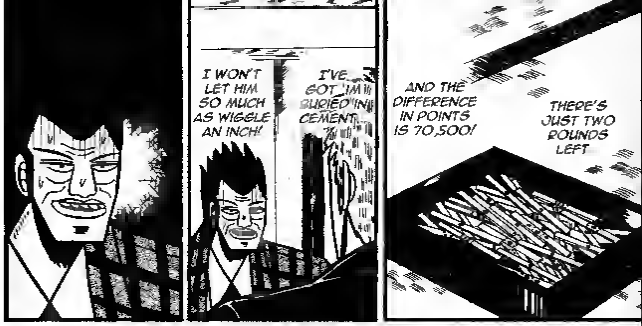
HEHE HE...
UEABE CUT THAT ACHIEVEMENT BEFORE IT COULD BE CONCIEVED BY DEALING INTO A LOW HAND
JUST WHEN AKAGI'S HAND WAS LOOKING AS THOUGH IT WOULD TURN INTO A KOKUSHI MUSOU ...
JUST ... PINFU... 1300 POINTS, PLEASE.
AH ...!!

HE'S ALMOST THERE ...!!
II SHAN TEN!!

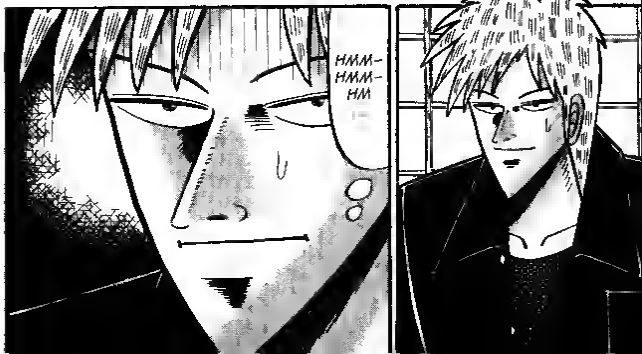
ISHI-KAWA'S HOPES WERE QUICKLY DASHED.
BUT ...
KEEP ON GOING, AKAGI! GET JUST ONE MORE!!
GOOD

SO ALL YOU'VE GOT NOW IS THE 3RD AND 4TH ROUNDS
SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YA, NIISAN
WITH THIS WIN, I'VE CUT OFF ANOTHER CHANCE FOR YOU TO WIN !
ニヤラ
ニヤラ
HUHHHHH!
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT... IT'S HOPELESS

WE'VE BEEN SEALED OFF
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG WE HAVE LEFT
IF URABE IS GOING TO PLAY THAT KIND OF GAME
IT WAS CRUSHED
WE JUST SAW AKAGI'S MONSTER HAND BUILD UP BIT BY BIT, BUT BEFORE IT COULD EVEN GET THERE
HEHE HE
DAM-MIT
WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO GET TO TENPAI
FOR-GET ABOUT WINNING
I'VE GOT AN EASY WIN AHEAD OF ME
I WON'T EVEN LET HIM GET A HAND
THAT'S RIGHT


I WON'T LET HIM SO MUCH AS WIGGLE AN INCH!
I'VE GOT HIM BURIED IN CEMENT.
AND THE DIFFERENCE IN POINTS IS 70,500!
THERE'S JUST TWO ROUNDS LEFT

TOTAL SUPPRES-SION!!


HMM-HMM-HM

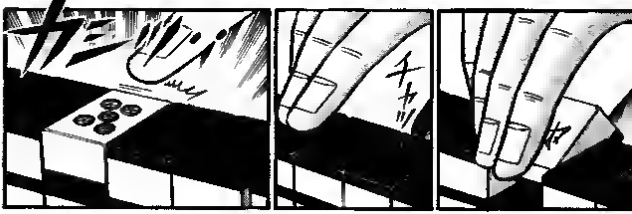
さわ・・
さわ・・
THE GAP BETWEEN US AND URABE IS 70,000
ALL WE HAVE NOW IS THE 3RD AND 4TH ROUNDS JUST TWO MORE
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY WAY TO DIG OUR WAY OUT OF THIS!
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING
AKAGI!
WITH HIS DEALING INTO QUICK, CHEAP HANDS!!
HE SOME-HOW NEEDS TO PUT TO-GETHER A EVEN WITH URABE HAND... BLOCKING HIM OFF...
WITH SUCH A MASSIVE POINT DIFFERENCE... AND SO FEW ROUNDS REMAINING...
HOW CAN HE EVEN GET THIS MATCH GOING IN HIS FAVOR AT THIS POINT ...?

CHAPTER 43 - NAUGHT

第43話絶無

THE ROLL IS 11
チャラ…
チャッ…
スッ
YOU MADE A MISTAKE
……
……
YOU'RE NOT TAKING ANY TILES
WHAT'S WRONG?
さ…

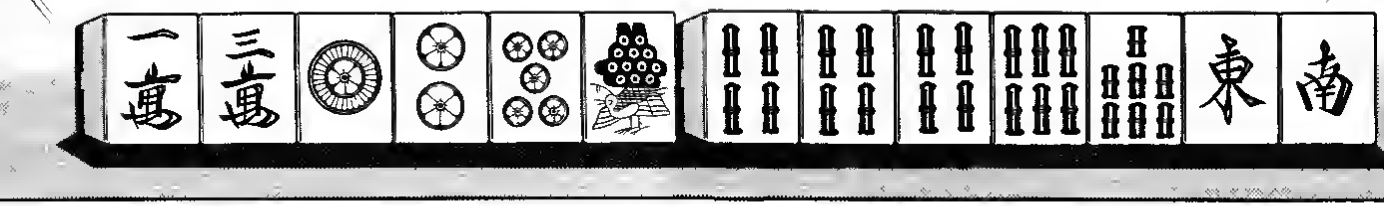
THE DEALER RETURNS HIS TILES
COME ON MAN
OH!
YOU FLIPPED OVER THE 13TH TILE
YOU'RE OFF BY ONE
HUH?
SORRY ABOUT THAT

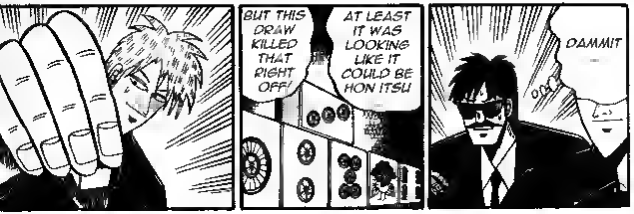


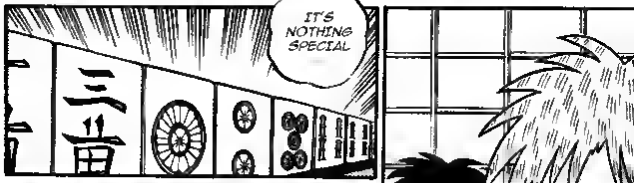
LET'S GO.
OKAY, THEN

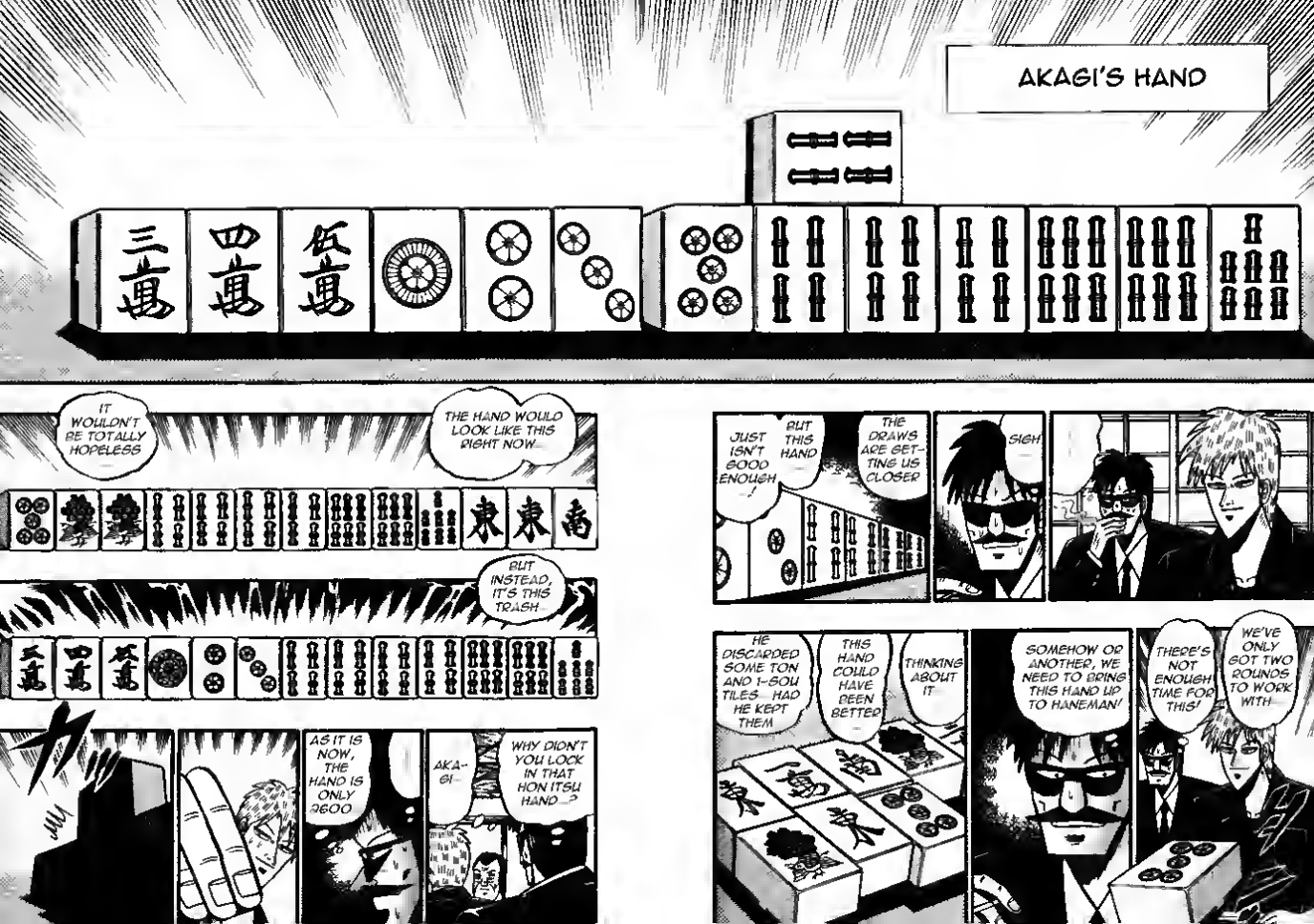
ANY SIGNS OF UNEA-SINESS
EVEN IN SUCH A HOPELESS SPOT, HE'S NOT SHOWING
HE'S CALM
DOES HE...
...HAVE SOMETHING ELSE UP HIS SLEEVE...?
A SECRET WE-PON ...?
SOME-THING HE CAN USE TO TAKE THIS GAME BACK FROM URABE ...?!

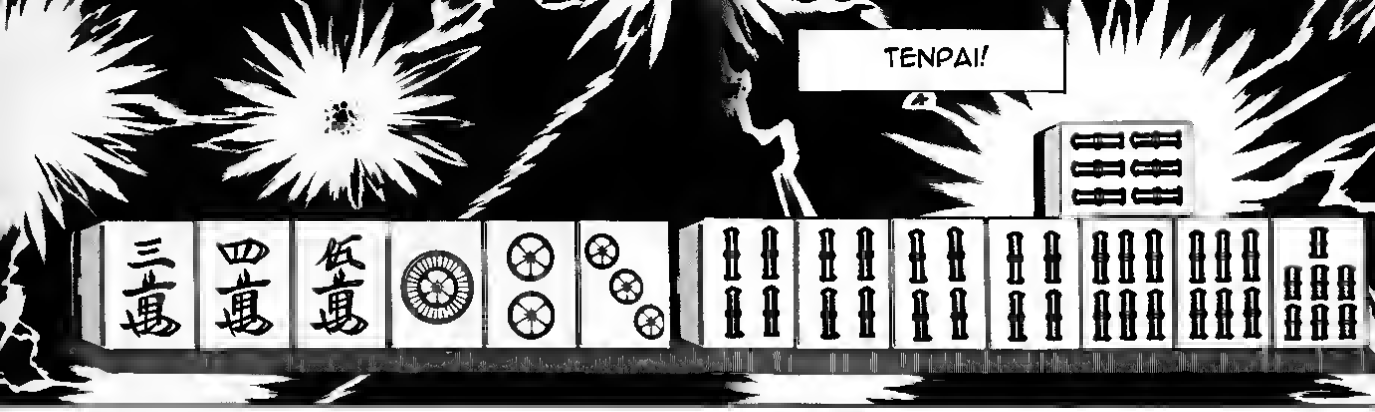
AKAGI'S STARTING HAND

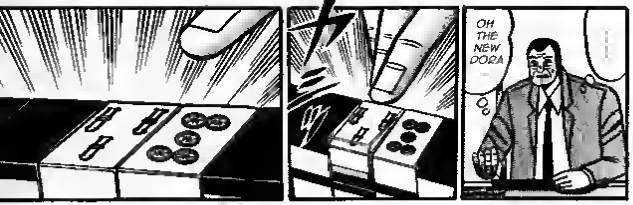







AKAGI'S HAND
IT WOULDN'T BE TOTALLY HOPELESS...
THE HAND WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW...
BUT INSTEAD, IT'S THIS TRASH...
AS IT IS NOW, THE HAND IS ONLY 2600
AKA-GI...
WHY DIDN'T YOU LOCK IN THAT HON ITSU HAND...?
JUST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH...!
BUT THIS HAND...
THE DRAWS ARE GETTING US CLOSER
SIGH
HE DISCARDED SOME TON AND 1-SOU TILES... HAD HE KEPT THEM
THIS HAND COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...
THINKING ABOUT IT...
SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, WE NEED TO BRING THIS HAND UP TO HANEMAN!
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR THIS!
WE'VE ONLY GOT TWO ROUNDS TO WORK WITH...

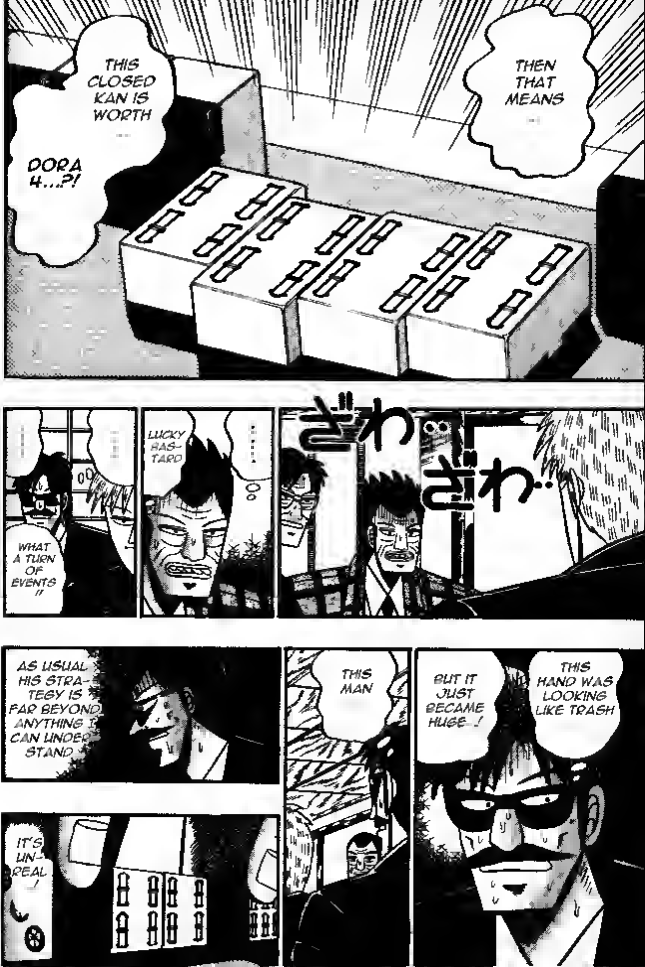

TENPAI!

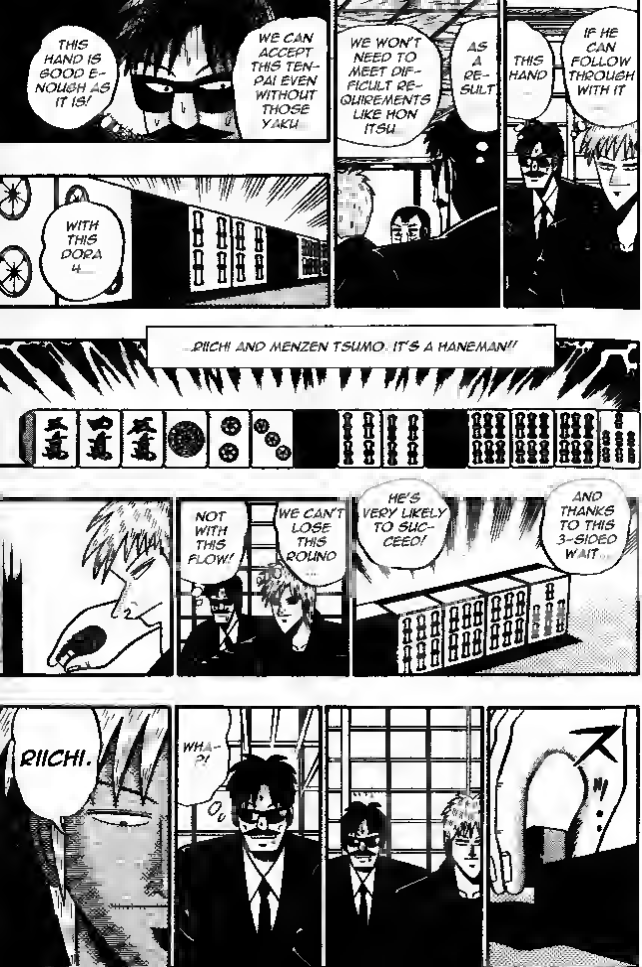

OH THE NEW DORA

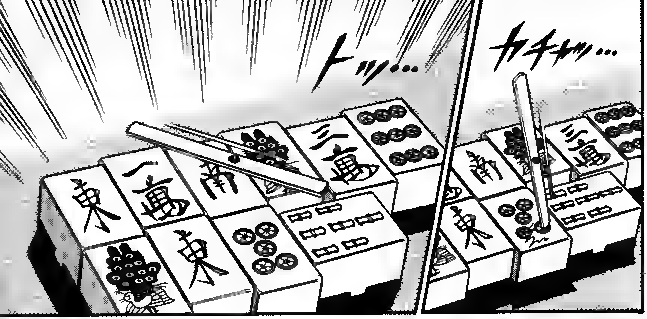
THE NEW DORA INDICATOR IS A 3-SOU!
AH!!

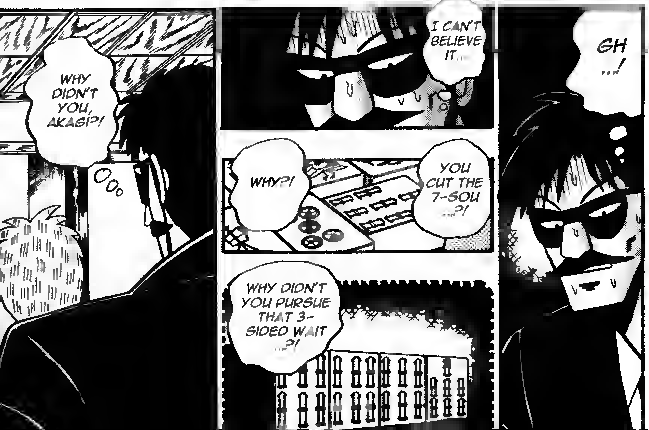
A USELESS TENPAI
THERE'S NO POINT IN WINNING WITH THIS HAND
THE WAY THINGS ARE
BUT
HE'S THERE

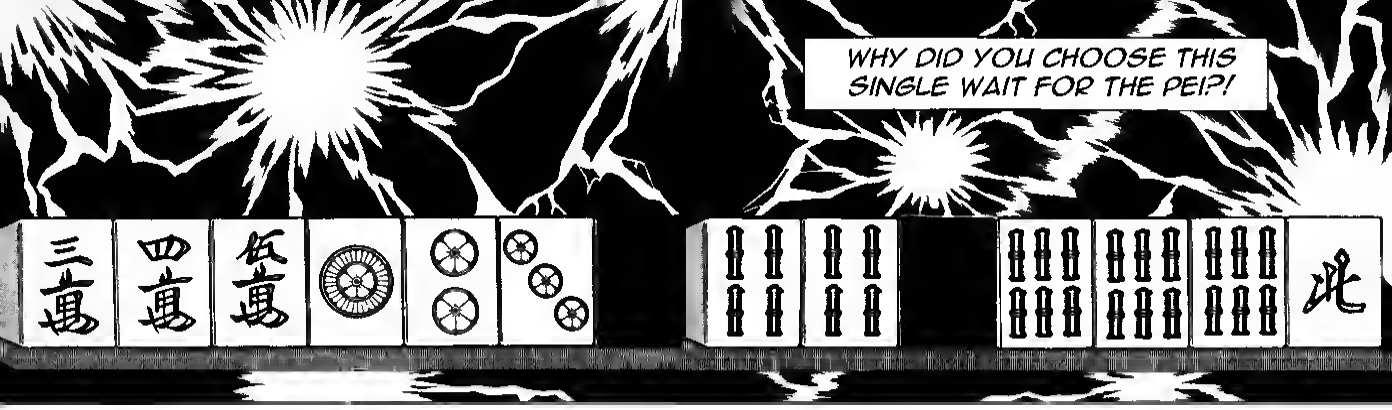
KAN.

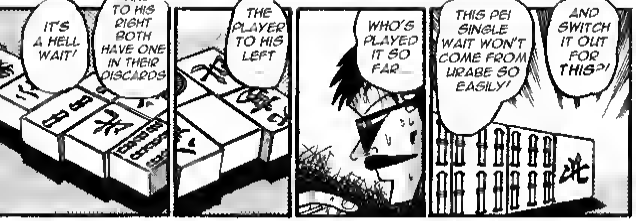

THIS CLOSED KAN IS WORTH
DORA 4...?!
THEN THAT MEANS
WHAT A TURN OF EVENTS !!
LUCKY BASTARD
ざわ..
ざわ..
AS USUAL HIS STRATEGY IS FAR BEYOND ANYTHING I CAN UNDERSTAND
IT'S UNREAL !
THIS MAN
BUT IT JUST BECAME HUGE !
THIS HAND WAS LOOKING LIKE TRASH

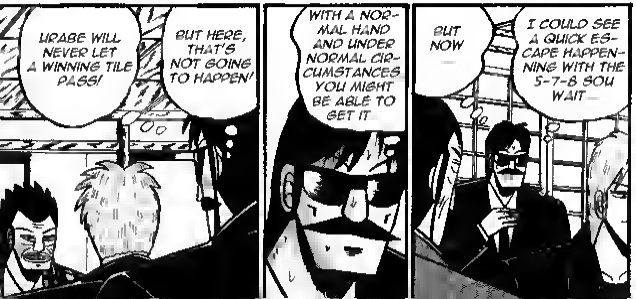

THIS HAND IS GOOD ENOUGH AS IT IS!
WE CAN ACCEPT THIS TENPAI EVEN WITHOUT THOSE YAKU
WE WON'T NEED TO MEET DIFFICULT REQUIREMENTS LIKE HON ITSU
AS A RESULT
THIS HAND
IF HE CAN FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IT
WITH THIS DORA 4
...RIICHI AND MENZEN TSUMO. IT'S A HANEMAN!!
NOT WITH THIS FLOW!
WE CAN'T LOSE THIS ROUND
HE'S VERY LIKELY TO SUCCEED!
AND THANKS TO THIS 3-SIDED WAIT...
RIICHI.
WHA-?!
ツ
ﾊﾝ!!

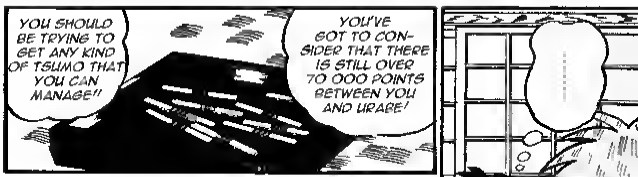

トッ...
カチャッ...

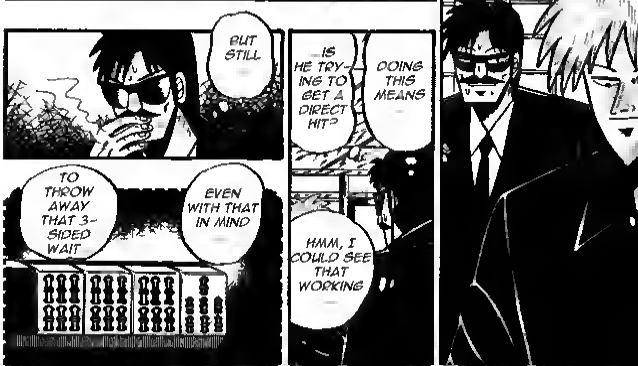

WHY DIDN'T YOU, AKAGI?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
GH ...!
WHY?!
YOU CUT THE 7-SOU ...?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU PURSUE THAT 3-SIDED WAIT ...?!

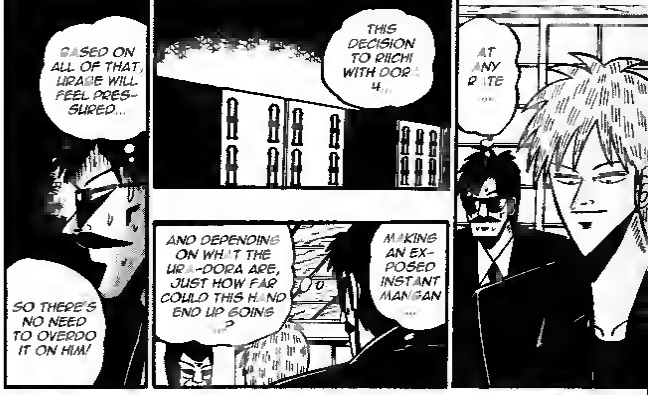

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS SINGLE WAIT FOR THE PEI?!

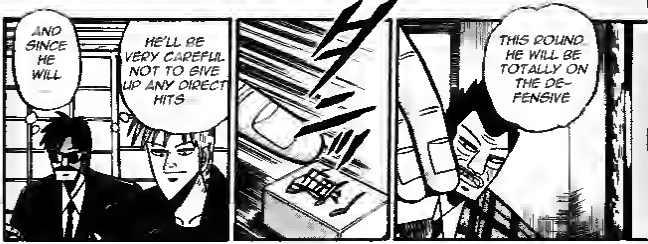

IT'S A HELL WAIT!
AND TO HIS RIGHT BOTH HAVE ONE IN THEIR DISCARDS
THE PLAYER TO HIS LEFT
WHO'S PLAYED IT SO FAR...
THIS PEI SINGLE WAIT WON'T COME FROM URABE SO EASILY!
AND SWITCH IT OUT FOR THIS?!


URABE WILL NEVER LET A WINNING TILE PASS!
BUT HERE, THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
WITH A NORMAL HAND AND UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET IT
BUT NOW...
I COULD SEE A QUICK ESCAPE HAPPENING WITH THE 5-7-8 SOU WAIT...


YOU SHOULD BE TRYING TO GET ANY KIND OF TSUMO THAT YOU CAN MANAGE!!
YOU'VE GOT TO CONSIDER THAT THERE IS STILL OVER 70 000 POINTS BETWEEN YOU AND URABE!

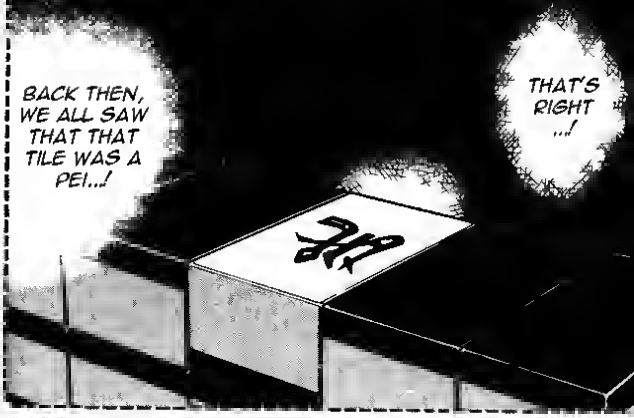

BUT STILL...
...IS HE TRYING TO GET A DIRECT HIT?
DOING THIS MEANS...
TO THROW AWAY THAT 3-SIDED WAIT
EVEN WITH THAT IN MIND...
HMM, I COULD SEE THAT WORKING

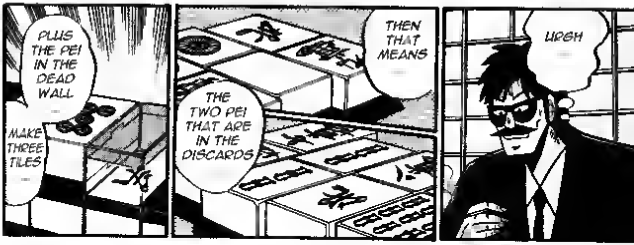

BASED ON ALL OF THAT, URABE WILL FEEL PRESSURED...
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO OVERDO IT ON HIM!
THIS DECISION TO RICHI WITH DORA 4...
AND DEPENDING ON WHAT THE URA-DORA ARE, JUST HOW FAR COULD THIS HAND END UP GOING...?
MAKING AN EXPOSED INSTANT MANGAN...
AT ANY RATE...


AND SINCE HE WILL
HE'LL BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE UP ANY DIRECT HITS
THIS ROUND HE WILL BE TOTALLY ON THE DEFENSIVE

IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER TO KEEP THE 3-SIDED WAIT!
THAT WAY YOU COULD AT LEAST TSUMO! MAKE NO MISTAKE
AND SINCE THAT'S HOW IT IS...
HE WON'T TAKE ANY RISKS!
HE WON'T DEAL IT!
WHETHER IT'S A SINGLE WAIT ON THE PEI
OR A 3-SIDED SOUZU WAIT

THINKING BACK...
WAIT A MINUTE
SO WHY IS HE IGNORING IT
AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME, THAT MUCH, AT LEAST IS OBVIOUS
SORRY ABOUT THAT
OH!
YOU FLIPPED OVER THE 19TH TILE
YOU'RE OFF BY ONE
AT THE START OF THE MATCH!


BACK THEN, WE ALL SAW THAT THAT TILE WAS A PEI..!
THAT'S RIGHT ..!


PLUS THE PEI IN THE DEAD WALL
MAKE THREE TILES
THE TWO PEI THAT ARE IN THE DISCARDS
THEN THAT MEANS
URGH

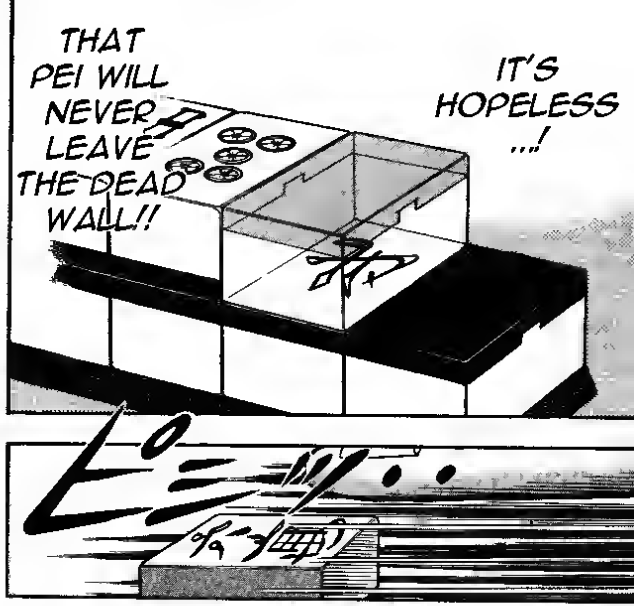
AND THAT MEANS
.....

THERE ARE NO WINNING TILES!!!
THIS SINGLE PEI WAIT IS TOTALLY EMPTY..!
AT THIS MOST CRITICAL OF MOMENTS
HOW COULD HE MAKE SUCH A MISTAKE?!
GH
THERE'S NO WAY THAT HE WOULD MAKE SUCH A RUDIMENTARY MISTAKE
CERTAINLY NOT HERE
NO

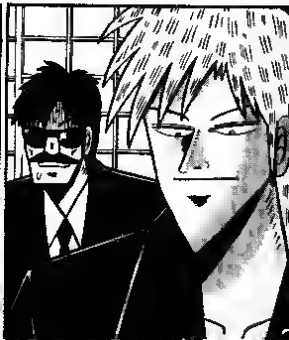
THAT SINGLE WAIT ON THE PEI!
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING TO IT!
THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK OF...
AND CALL KAN!
AKAGI COULD DRAW ANOTHER 6-SOU
IS THAT PEI THAT HE NEEDS
IF HE WAITS UNTIL THE NEXT DEAD WALL DRAW
IN THAT CASE
BARRING EVERYTHING ELSE
THE ONE WAY THAT I CAN SEE IT HAPPENING
THAT'S PLAIN IMPOSSIBLE
RIGHT NOW
BUT
BECAUSE
HE WOULD GET THE PEI THAT HE NEEDS!
AND THEN, ON THE NEXT DEAD WALL DRAW
A RINSHAN TSUMO!

THE PLAYED TO AKAGI'S LEFT PLAYED THE 6-SOU ON HIS 6TH TURN
SO NOTHING MORE CAN BE DONE
THERE'S NO WAY FOR HIM TO KAN AND DRAW THAT TILE
SO, THEN
THE ONLY OTHER WAY
HE CAN'T COMPLETE IT THAT WAY

IF SOMEONE ELSE MAKES A FEW KANS...
THEY CAN THEN DEAL THAT PEI THEY DRAW FROM THE DEAD WALL!
BUT...
THAT'S JUST AS UNLIKELY
U-ARE CERTAINLY WON'T
AND THE OTHER TWO WON'T MAKE ANY KANS, EITHER!
EVERYONE CAN SEE THAT AKAGI HAS 4 DOR... AND IS IN RIICHI ALREADY...
SO...
NO ONE WANTS TO GIVE AKAGI THE CHANCE TO SCORE ANY MORE DORA!
IT WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC FOR THEM
JUST IMPOSSIBLE


THAT PEI WILL NEVER LEAVE THE DEAD WALL!!
IT'S HOPELESS ...!
ピー!!

AKAGI ...!!



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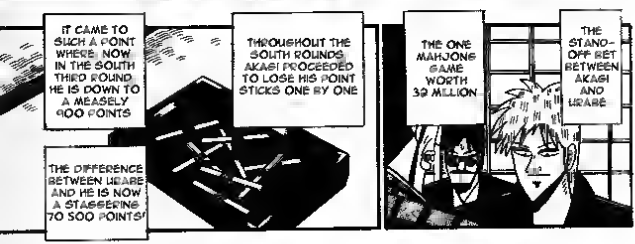
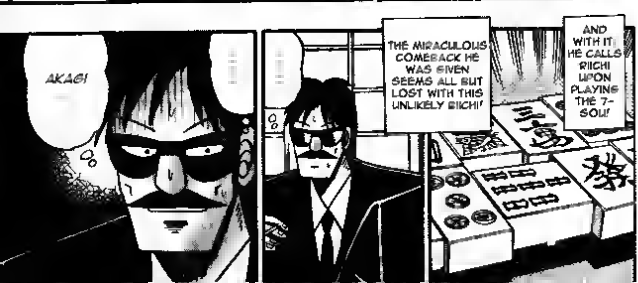
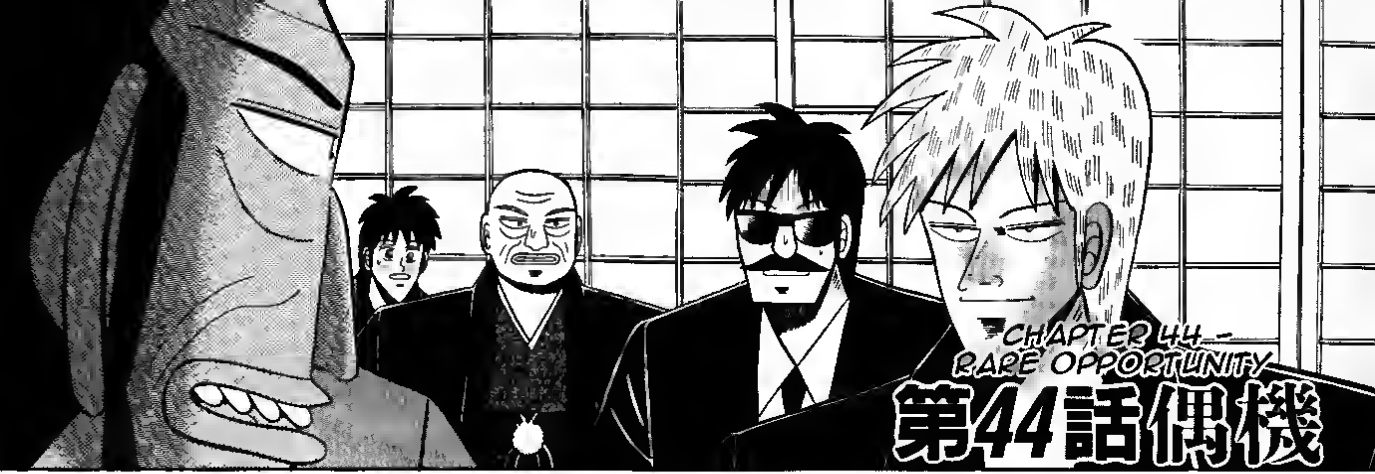
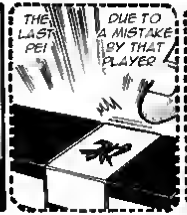

IT CAME TO SUCH A POINT WHERE NOW IN THE SOUTH THIRD ROUND HE IS DOWN TO A MEASELY 4000 POINTS
THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH ROUNDS AKAGI PROCEEDED TO LOSE HIS POINT STICKS ONE BY ONE
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UBARE AND HE IS NOW A STAGGERING 70 500 POINTS!
THE ONE MAHJONG GAME WORTH 30 MILLION
THE STAND-OFF BET BETWEEN AKAGI AND UBARE

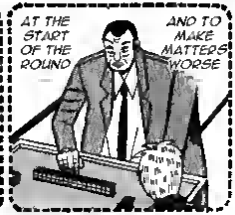
HIS CLOSED KAN WON OUT ON THE NEW DORA!
HE MAKES A DORA 4 HAND —!
IN THIS CURRENT SOUTH THIRD ROUND
BUT SOME-HOW OR ANOTHER
IT IS A SEEM-INGLY HOPE-LESS DIFFER-ENCE


AKAGI
THE MIRACULOUS COMEBACK HE WAS EVEN SEEMS ALL BUT LOST WITH THIS UNLIKELY RIICHI!
AND WITH IT HE CALLS RIICHI UPON PLAYING THE 7-SOU!



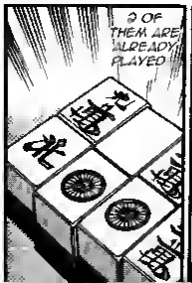
CHAPTER 44 – RARE OPPORTUNITY
第44話 偶機

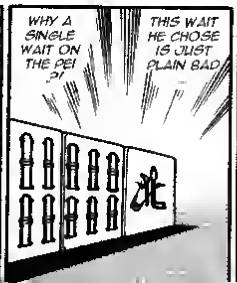


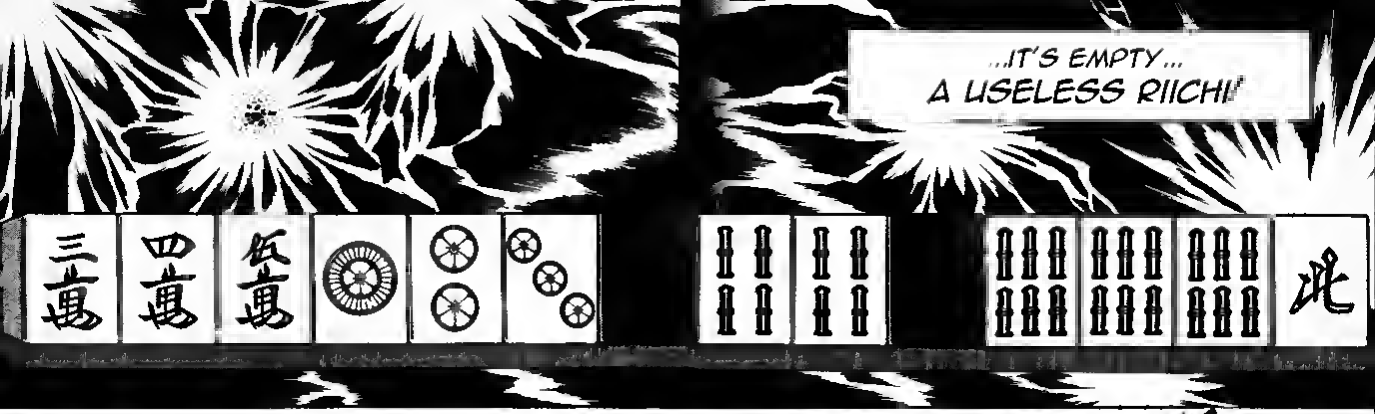


AT THE END OF IT ALL, THIS RIICHI THAT AKAGI MADE...
IT'S PLAIN TO SEE THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY FOR THAT TILE TO GET BACK IN PLAY!

YOU SHOULD TRY TO MAKE WINNING WITH YOUR RIICHI AS LIKELY AS POSSIBLE...
AND YET
BECAUSE OF THE OVER 70 THOUSAND POINTS IN DIFFERENCE

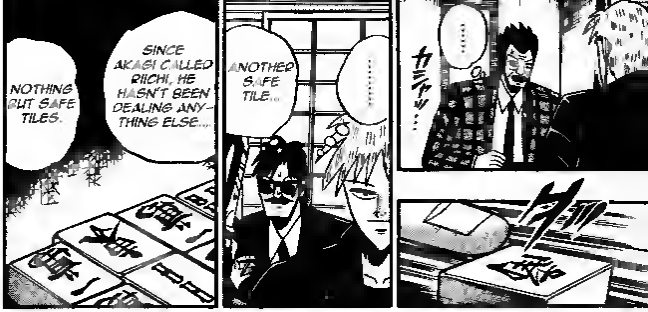




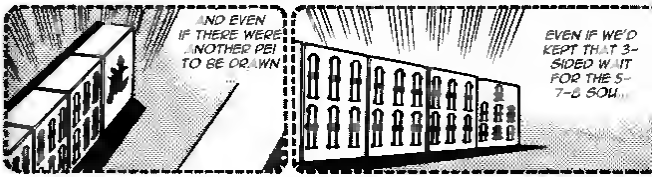

...IT'S EMPTY...
A USELESS RIICHI!

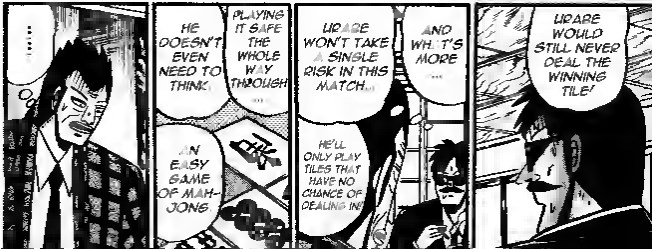
TRYING TO PREVENT US FROM COMPLETING IT.
IN THAT CASE, HE MIGHT SUSPECT SOMETHING LIKE THE 3-SIDED WAIT WE HAD...
IS THE WEST PLAYER TRYING TO MAKE A QUICK WIN AGAIN?
ON THE OTHER END, URABE...
THERE'S NO REAL RISK TO ANYONE HERE AT THIS POINT...
WELL...
IT'S USELESS TO THINK ABOUT THAT.

PON!

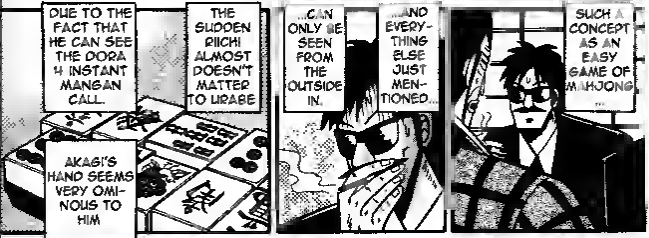

NOTHING BUT SAFE TILES.
SINCE AKAGI CALLED RIICHI, HE HASN'T BEEN DEALING ANYTHING ELSE...
ANOTHER SAFE TILE...
.....
.....
カラ…ッ…
ガシャ

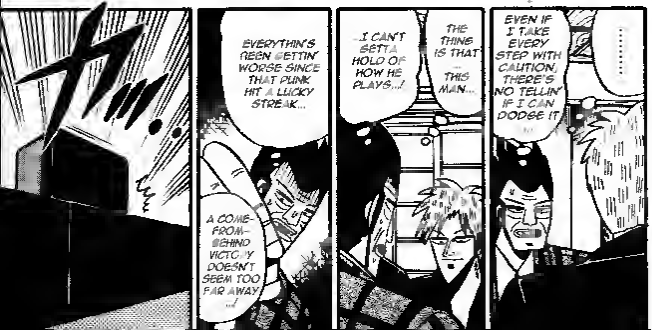
TAKING THE DEFENSIVE POSITION ...!
HE'S FOLDING ....

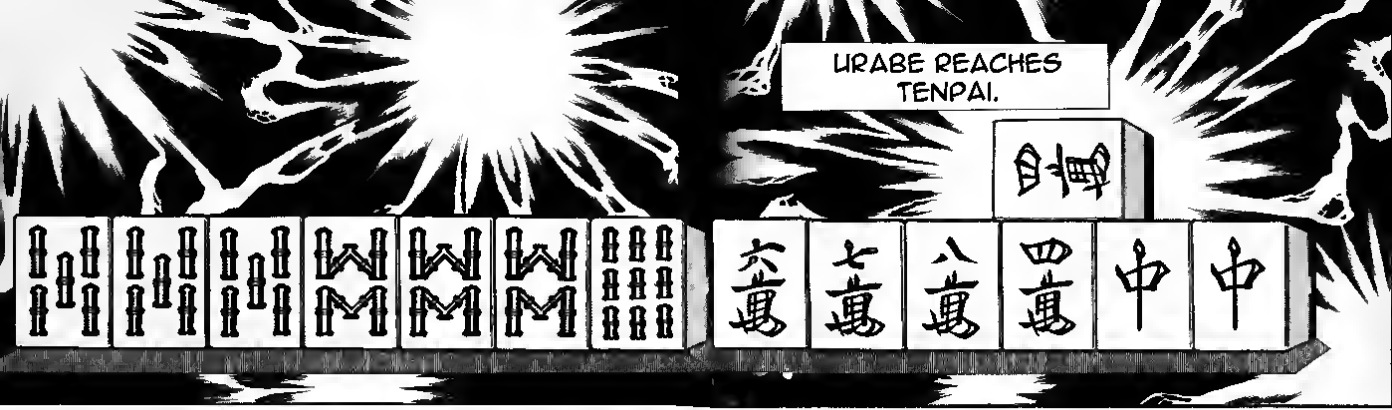

AND EVEN IF THERE WERE ANOTHER PEI TO BE DRAWN ...
EVEN IF WE'D KEPT THAT 3-SIDED WAIT FOR THE 5-7-8 SOU...


.....
HE DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO THINK!
PLAYING IT SAFE THE WHOLE WAY THROUGH ....
AN EASY GAME OF MAH-JONG
UCHIDA WON'T TAKE A SINGLE RISK IN THIS MATCH...
AND WHAT'S MORE ....
HE'LL ONLY PLAY TILES THAT HAVE NO CHANCE OF DEALING IN!
UCHIDA WOULD STILL NEVER DEAL THE WINNING TILE!

IN TRUTH URABE WAS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME
NO ...!

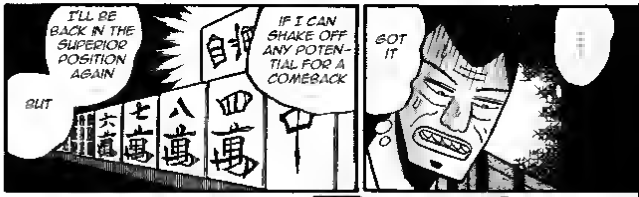

DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE CAN SEE THE DORA 4 INSTANT MANGAN CALL.
THE SUDDEN RIICHI ALMOST DOESN'T MATTER TO URABE
AKAGI'S HAND SEEMS VERY OMINOUS TO HIM
...CAN ONLY BE SEEN FROM THE OUTSIDE IN.
...AND EVERYTHING ELSE JUST MENTIONED...
SUCH A CONCEPT AS AN EASY GAME OF MAHJONG

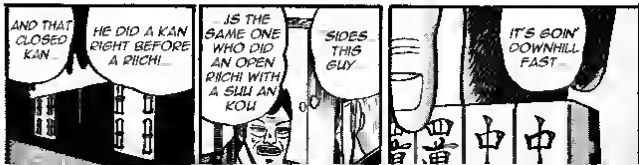

EVERYTHIN'S BEEN GETTIN' WORSE SINCE THAT PUNK HIT A LUCKY STREAK...
A COME-FROM-BEHIND VICTORY DOESN'T SEEM TOO FAR AWAY...
...I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF HOW HE PLAYS...!
THE THING IS THAT ... THIS MAN...
EVEN IF I TAKE EVERY STEP WITH CAUTION, THERE'S NO TELLIN' IF I CAN DODGE IT
.....

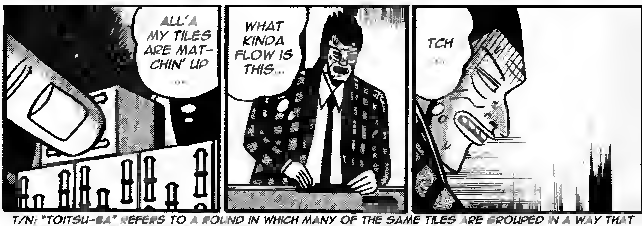

URABE REACHES TENPAI.

I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL
JUST HOW MANY UNBELIEVABLE THINGS CAN HAPPEN TO ONE GUY, HUH?
IT'S FUCKIN' UN-CANNY
IT MATCHED UP EXACTLY WITH THE NEW DORA

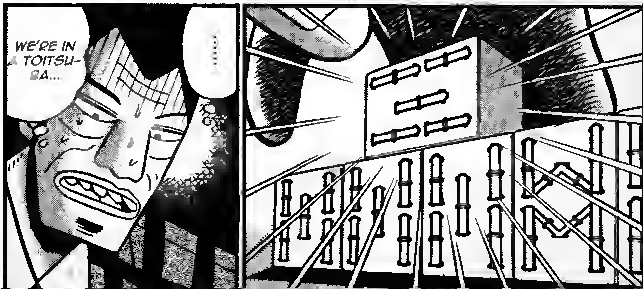
THE REAL PROBLEM LIES AFTER...
SO I'M SAFE FOR THE NEXT TURN, AT LEAST
THE GUY TO MY LEFT PLAYED THE 7-MAN A FEW TURNS AGO...
SAFE TILE


I'LL BE BACK IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION AGAIN
BUT
IF I CAN SHAKE OFF ANY POTENTIAL FOR A COMEBACK
GOT IT
DEALING THE 9-SOU MAKES THIS TENPAI
THERE'S NO POINT IN TAKIN' THIS TENPAI TO A WIN...

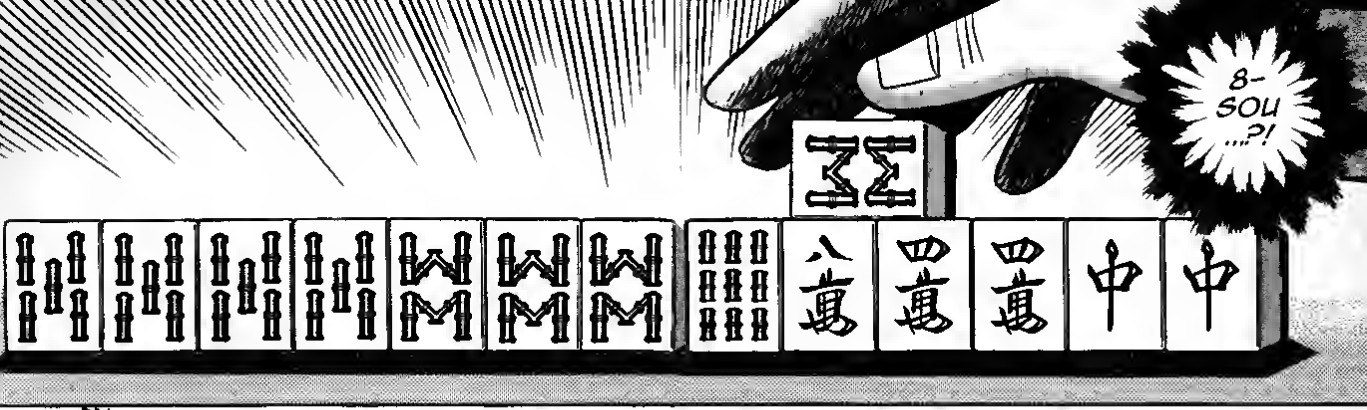

AND THAT CLOSED KAN...
HE DID A KAN RIGHT BEFORE A RIICHI...
...IS THE SAME ONE WHO DID AN OPEN RIICHI WITH A SUU AN KOU
SIDES THIS GUY
IT'S GOIN' DOWNHILL FAST...

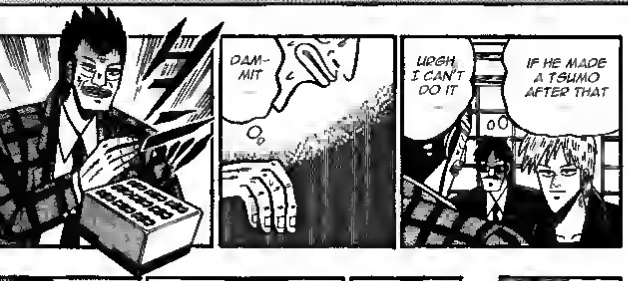


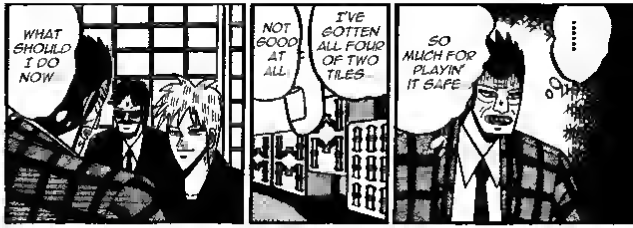
TN: "TOITSU-BA" REFERS TO A ROUND IN WHICH MANY OF THE SAME TILES ARE GROUPED IN A WAY THAT MAKES EVE. YONE'S HANDS END UP WITH MANY "TOITSU", MEANING PAIRS.



'TILL NOW, ALL THE GOOD TILES HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO HIM...
IF HE HAS ONE OR TWO MORE ANKOU IN THERE
IT COULD BE A MONSTER
AND MORE THAN THAT
WHEN THE URA-DORA ARE REVEALED
HIS HAND COULD SKYROCKET ALL OF A SUDDEN!
I CAN'T LET IT COME TO THAT
I'VE GOTTA AVOID IT SOME-HOW!
URA-REI'S 16TH TURN
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS
UGH...!
四萬
八萬

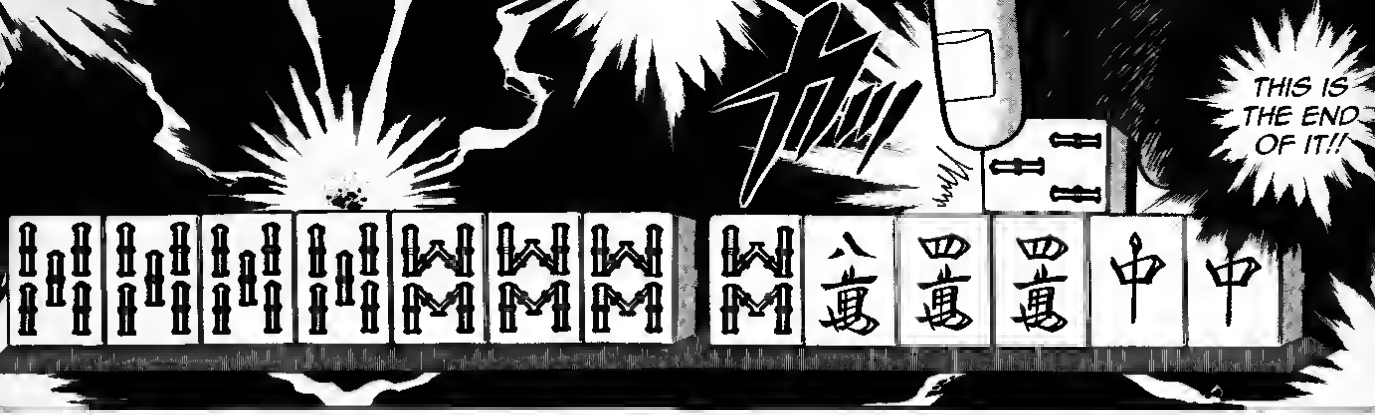

8-SOU ...?!

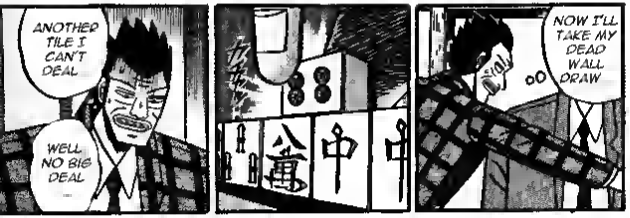

DAM-MIT
UHGH, I CAN'T DO IT
IF HE MADE A TSUMO AFTER THAT


WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW
NOT GOOD AT ALL
I'VE GOTTEN ALL FOUR OF TWO TILES...
SO MUCH FOR PLAYIN' IT SAFE
.....

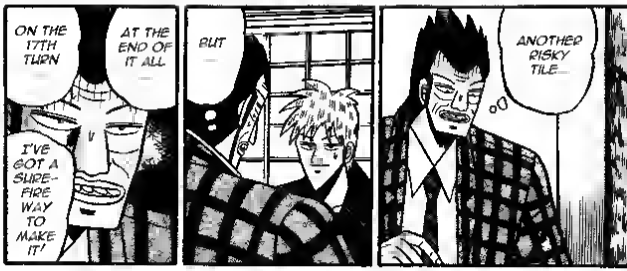
I'VE ONLY GOT ONE MORE TURN LEFT!
THEN EVERY-THIN'S GOOD
I'VE EN-DURED
ALL RIGHT
HEH-HEH
.....
DID IT PASS...?

I NEED TO THINK ABOUT THAT, TOO
THEN ALL I'LL'VE DONE IS GIVEN HIM ANOTHER DORA
AND IF I GET A RISKY DRAW
BUT THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHAT THAT DRAW WILL BE
AND HOPE THAT THE TILE I GET IS SOME-THING I CAN DISCARD
I COULD CALL A KAN TO GET ANOTHER DRAW...


THIS IS THE END OF IT!!

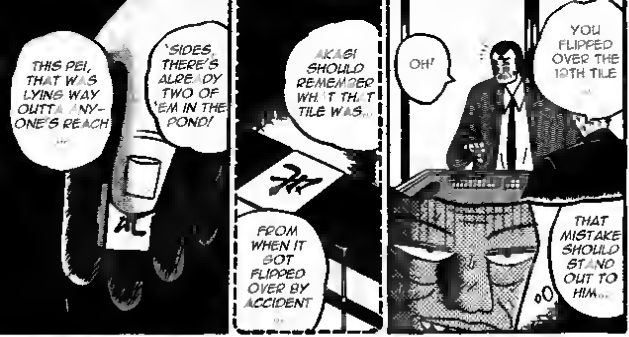

ANOTHER TILE I CAN'T DEAL
WELL, NO BIG DEAL
NOW I'LL TAKE MY DEAD WALL DRAW

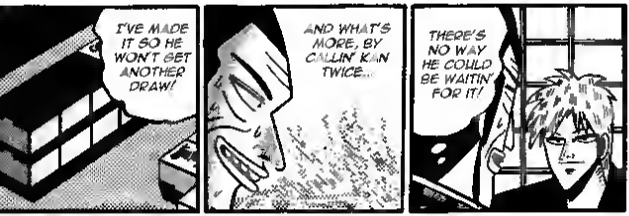
KAN!
AND ANOTHER ONE!

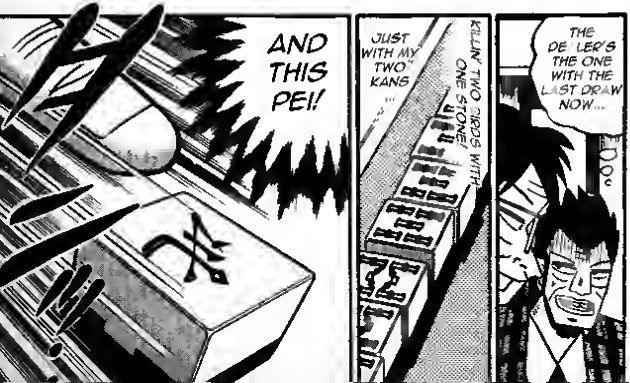

ON THE 17TH TURN
I'VE GOT A SURE-FIRE WAY TO MAKE IT!
AT THE END OF IT ALL
BUT...
ANOTHER RISKY TILE...

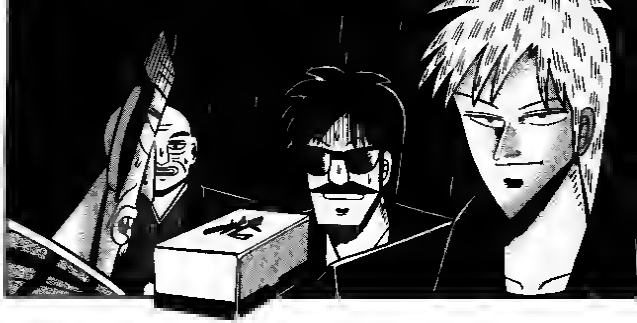
HUH?
KAN!
IT'S AN UNSTOPPABLE WAY TO WIN!
I GOT IT ON THE 18TH TURN BY CHANCE

HEH-HEH-HEH
WHAT IS THIS ...?!
...
WHA
JUST THE TILE I WAS LOOKIN' FOR!
THIS ONE!
NOW I'LL TAKE ONE MORE
THE DEAD WALL DRAW
THIS IS THE CORNERSTONE OF MY STRATEGY!
AT THE START OF THE ROUND, EVERYONE SAW THIS TILE!
HEH-HEH-HEH
THE PEI!

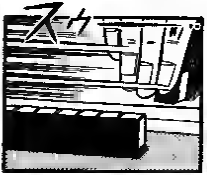

YOU FLIPPED OVER THE 19TH TILE
OH!
THAT MISTAKE SHOULD STAND OUT TO HIM...
AKAGI SHOULD REMEMBER WHAT THAT TILE WAS...
FROM WHEN IT GOT FLIPPED OVER BY ACCIDENT
'SIDES, THERE'S ALREADY TWO OF 'EM IN THE POND!
THIS PEI, THAT WAS LYING WAY OUTTA ANY-ONE'S REACH

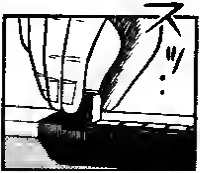

I'VE MADE IT SO HE WON'T GET ANOTHER DRAW!
AND WHAT'S MORE, BY CALLIN' KAN TWICE...
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE WAITIN' FOR IT!


AND THIS PEI!
KILLIN' TWO DORA WITH ONE STONE!
JUST WITH MY TWO KANS...
THE DEALER'S THE ONE WITH THE LAST DRAW NOW...



IT MAY AS WELL HAVE JUMPED OUT ALL BY ITSELF !
WE THOUGHT THE PEI COULDN'T BE DUG OUT OF THE WALL, BUT
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING
NO WAY
URGH !!

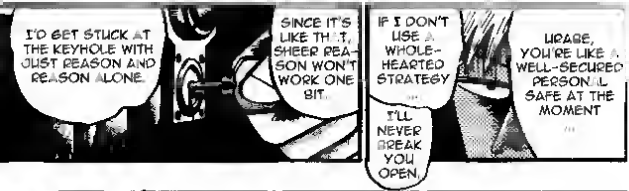


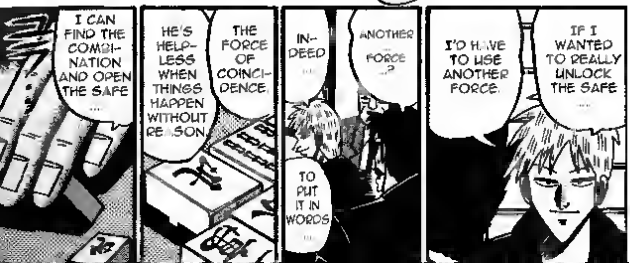


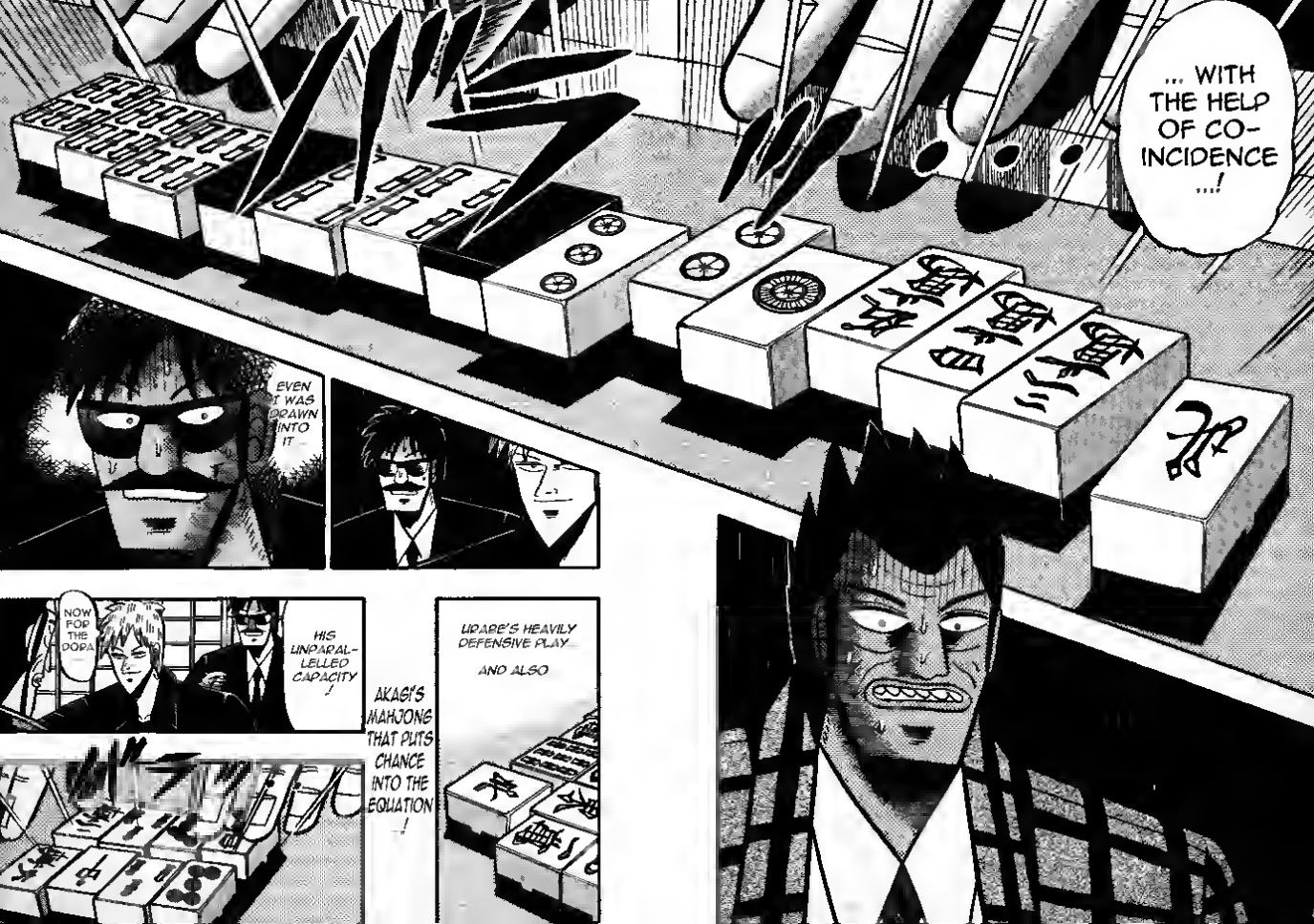
IS THIS WHAT AKAGI WAS PLANNING THIS WHOLE TIME ?!
HMM-HM-HM

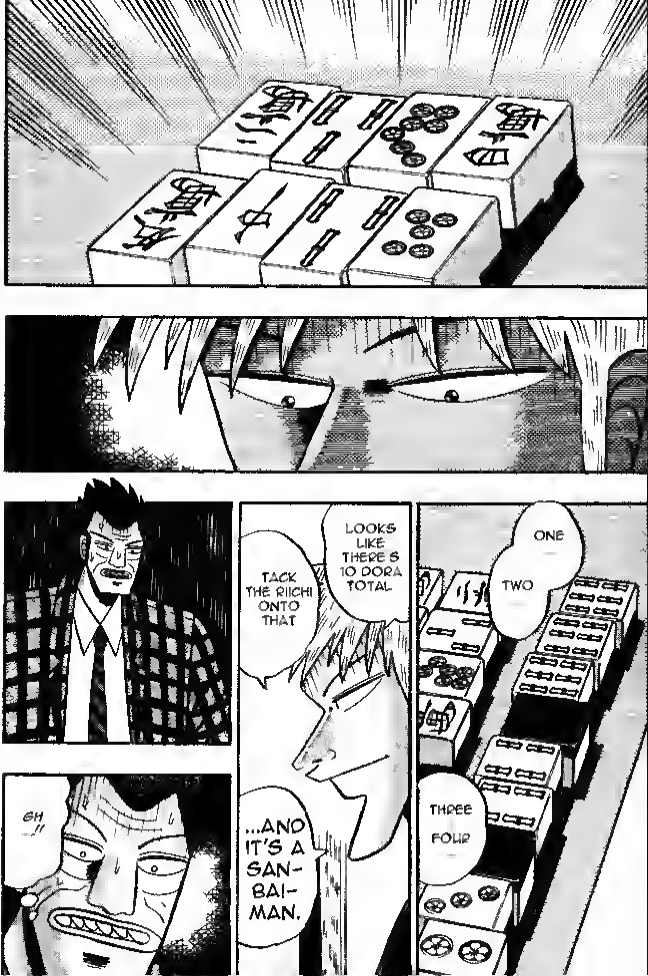
WHA-?!

IM... IMPOS-SIBLE...!
HMM-HM-HM...

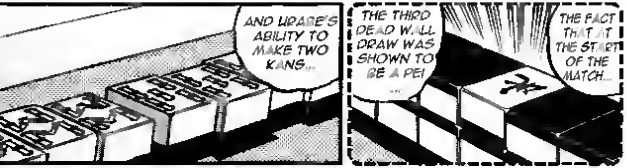

I'D GET STUCK AT THE KEYHOLE WITH JUST REASON AND REASON ALONE.
SINCE IT'S LIKE THAT, SHEER REASON WON'T WORK ONE BIT...
IF I DON'T USE A WHOLE-HEARTED STRATEGY...
I'LL NEVER BREAK YOU OPEN.
HRARE, YOU'RE LIKE A WELL-SECURED PERSONAL SAFE AT THE MOMENT...

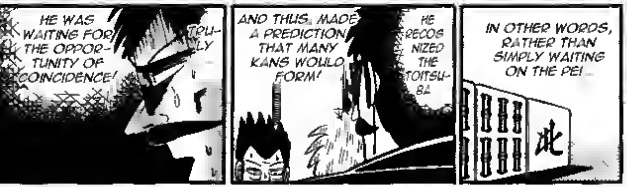

I CAN FIND THE COMBI-NATION AND OPEN THE SAFE...
HE'S HELP-LESS WHEN THINGS HAPPEN WITHOUT REASON.
THE FORCE OF COINCI-DENCE
IN-DEED...
TO PUT IT IN WORDS...
ANOTHER FORCE...?
I'D HAVE TO USE ANOTHER FORCE.
IF I WANTED TO REALLY UNLOCK THE SAFE...


... WITH THE HELP OF CO-INCIDENCE ...!
EVEN IT WAS DRAWN INTO IT
NOW FOR THE DORA
HIS UNPARALLELED CAPACITY !
AKAGI'S MAHJONG THAT PUTS CHANCE INTO THE EQUATION !
URABE'S HEAVILY DEFENSIVE PLAY
AND ALSO


ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S 10 DORA TOTAL.
TACK THE RIICHI ONTO THAT
...AND IT'S A SAN-BAI-MAN.
GH...!!

THERE WERE TWO COINCIDENCES...
.....
KH...

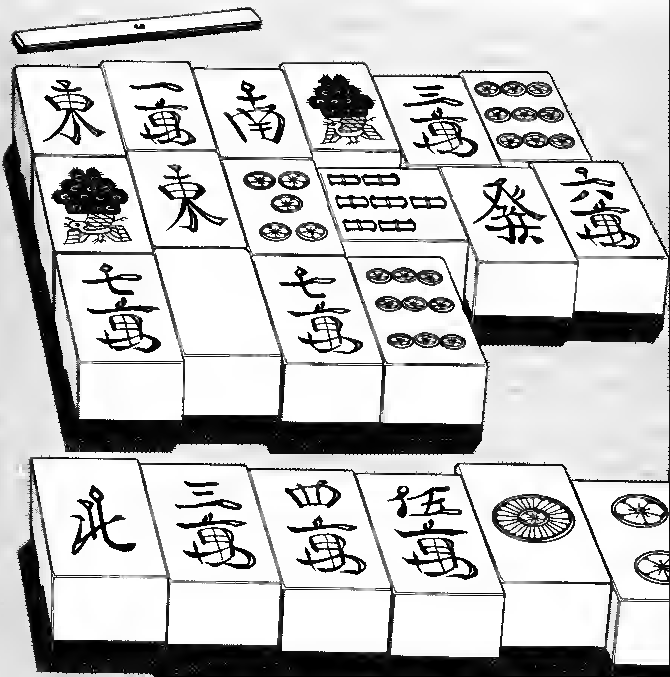

AND UKABE'S ABILITY TO MAKE TWO KANS...
THE THIRD DEAD WALL DRAW WAS SHOWN TO BE A PEI...
THE FACT THAT IT THE START OF THE MATCH...


HE WAS WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF COINCIDENCE!
AND THUS, MADE A PREDICTION THAT MANY KANS WOULD FORM!
HE RECOGNIZED THE TOITSU-SAI
IN OTHER WORDS, RATHER THAN SIMPLY WAITING ON THE PEI...

OR EVEN GODLY
SHOULD IT BE CALLED KINGLY-?
THIS STRATEGY IS WAY BEYOND IMAGINATION...
HUMANS CAN AVOID STRATEGIES INVOLVING REASON. BUT CANNOT DO THE SAME FOR THOSE INVOLVING CHANCE!

AN ATTACK FROM A WHOLE DIFFERENT DIMENSION...

AKAGI'S RIICHI, WITH A WAIT ON COINCIDENCE!



CHAPTER 45 - CAPACITY
第45話容量

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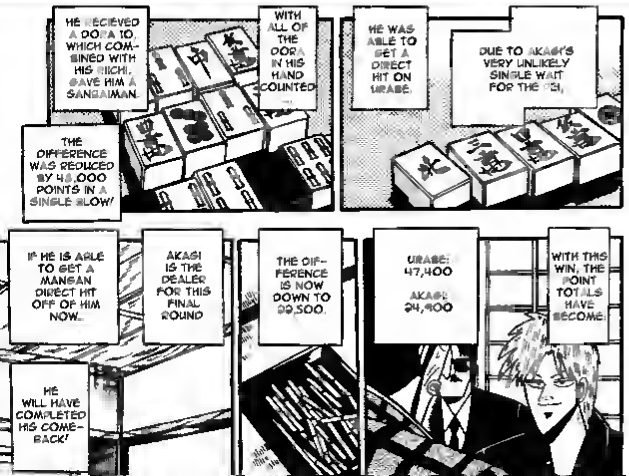
ざわ・・・


HE RECEIVED A DORA TO WHICH COMBINED WITH HIS RICHI, GAVE HIM A SANGAIMAN.
WITH ALL OF THE DORA IN HIS HAND COUNTED...
HE WAS ABLE TO GET A DIRECT HIT ON URABE.
DUE TO AKAGI'S VERY UNLIKELY SINGLE WAIT FOR THE TSUMO,
THE DIFFERENCE WAS REDUCED BY 48,000 POINTS IN A SINGLE BLOW!
IF HE IS ABLE TO GET A MANGAN DIRECT HIT OFF OF HIM NOW...
AKAGI IS THE DEALER FOR THIS FINAL ROUND
THE DIFFERENCE IS NOW DOWN TO 29,500.
URABE: 47,400
AKAGI: 24,900
WITH THIS WIN, THE POINT TOTALS HAVE BECOME:
HE WILL HAVE COMPLETED HIS COME-BACK!

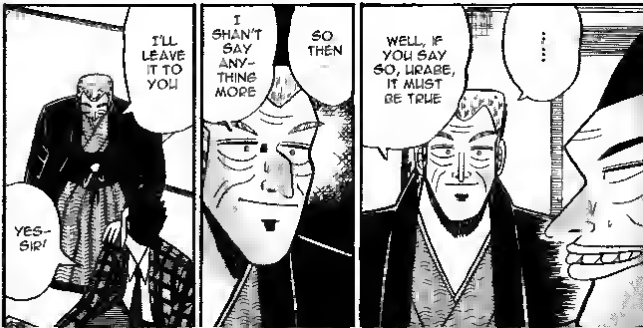
TCH.
HE MANAGED TO SAVE HIMSELF FROM THE BRINK OF DESPAIR.
BUT IN THE LAST ROUND, THE SOUTH THIRD ROUND,
MERE MOMENTS AGO, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO MEN HAD REACHED OVER 70,000 POINTS...
HMM-HM-HM...
AKAGI VS URABE

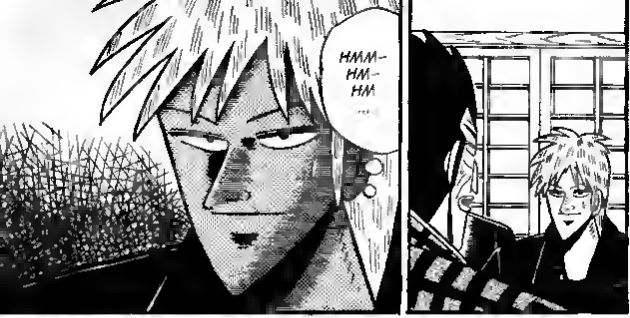
HE IS DRAWING EVER CLOSER TO A MIRACULOUS RECOVERY!

IF HIS HANDS ARE WORTH 3900 OR 5800,
AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT, HE CAN'T RUSH TO GET A HAND...
HE'LL NEED A THIRD OR EVEN A FOURTH ARROW!
JUST ONE ARROW WON'T BE ENOUGH.
IF HE WANTS TO CLIMB HIS WAY BACK UP TO THE TOP,
HE'LL NEED TWO ARROWS AT THE LEAST!
BY ONLY WINNING THE NEXT ROUND AND NOTHIN' ELSE,
EVEN IF HE CAN MAKE HIS HAND FASTER THAN ME,
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO OVERTAKE ME.
THAT'LL END THE GAME WITH ME ON TOP
I CAN JUST WIN WITH ANY OL' HAND THAT COMES MY WAY...
PIECE O' CAKE
I'VE JUST GOTTA PROTECT MY LEAD
AND ON THE OTHER HAND,
I SEE
.....
BEIN' ABLE TO PLAY BY THE BOOK...
HAVIN' THAT LEG UP IN THE LAST ROUND
THAT'S HUGE, YA GET ME?
OVER THERE, HE HAS TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH HOW GOOD HIS HAND IS!
IN OTHER WORDS, ALL I NEED TO THINK ABOUT IS THE SPEED OF MY HAND!

DON'T LET YOURSELF GET WORRIED
KUMICHOU-HAN
HIS HANDICAP IS TOO BIG FOR HIM TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT STUFF
THAT CRAZY METHOD WON'T WORK ON US
IS SPOUTING SOME NONSENSE TO SCARE US, YA SEE?
THAT KID OVER THERE

I UNDERSTAND
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP MY LEAD SO EASILY
HE'LL FALL ONE STEP SHORT'A ME FOR SURE

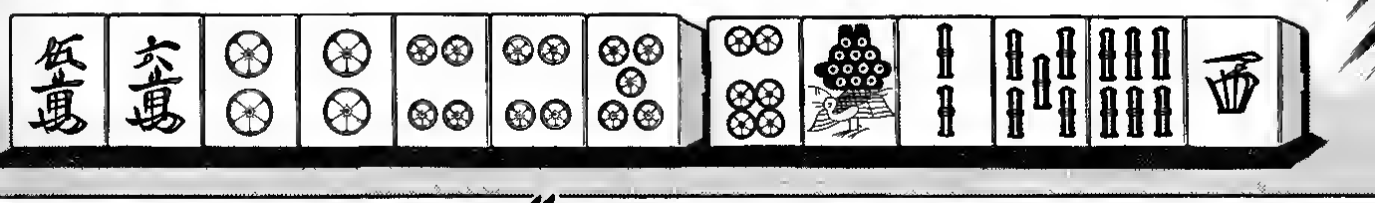

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU
YES-SIR!
I SHAN'T SAY ANYTHING MORE
SO THEN
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, URABE, IT MUST BE TRUE
.....

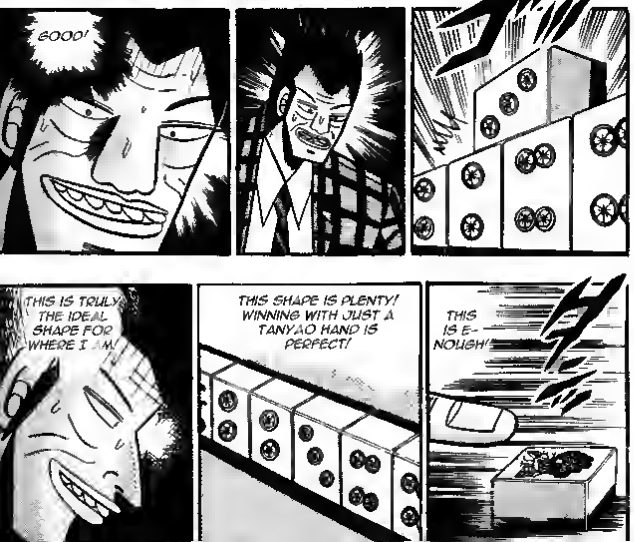

HMM-HM-HM...

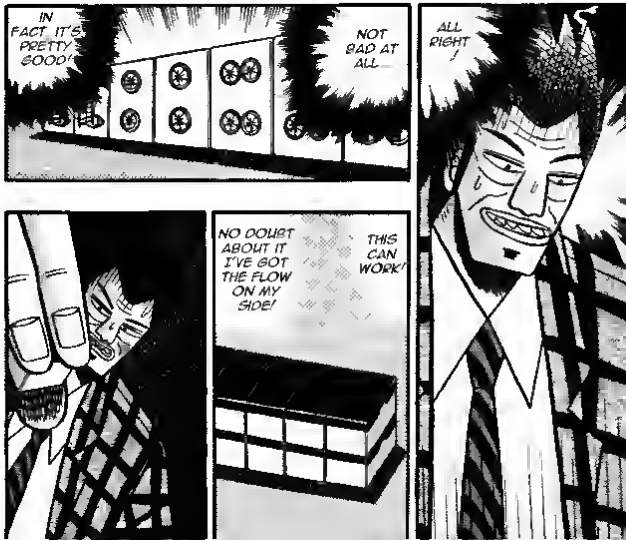
I WON'T DEAL IN NO MATTER WHAT!
YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO GET YOUR WAY EVERY DAMN TIME...
GET THAT INTO YOUR SKULL!
LITTLE BRAT
HMPH

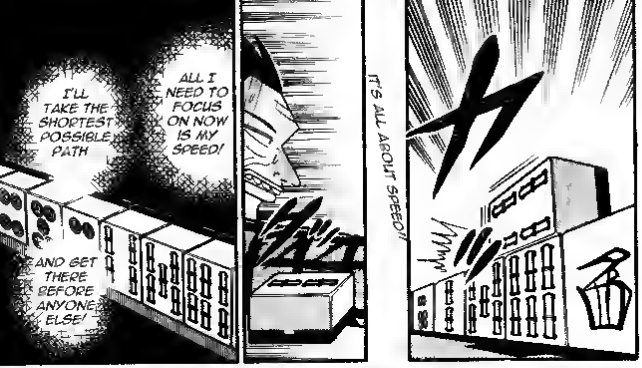
THE PLAY-ERS DRAW THEIR TILES
THE LAST ROUND

URABE'S STARTING HAND



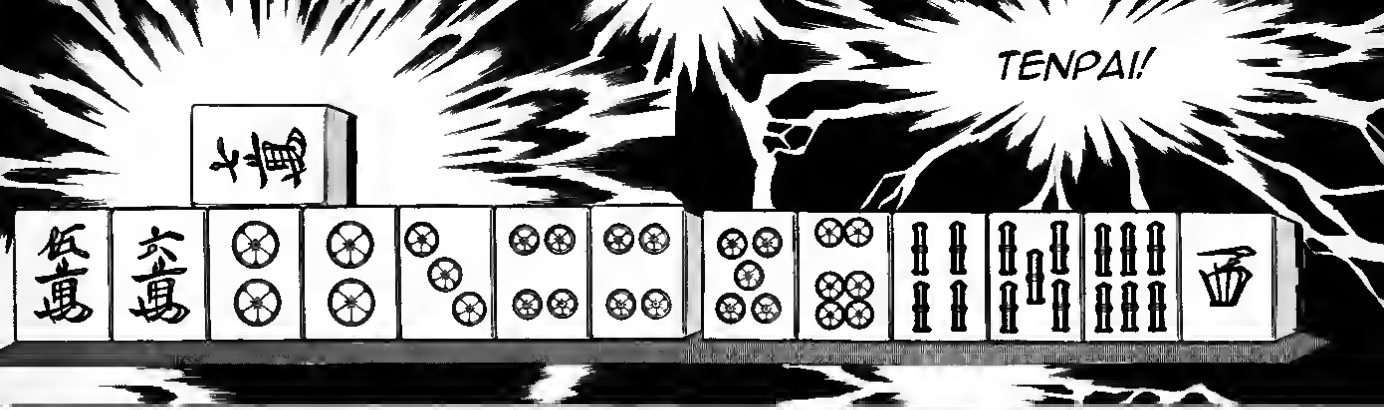

GOOD!
THIS IS TRULY THE IDEAL SHAPE FOR WHERE I AM!
THIS SHAPE IS PLENTY! WINNING WITH JUST A TANYAO HAND IS PERFECT!
THIS IS E-NOUGH!

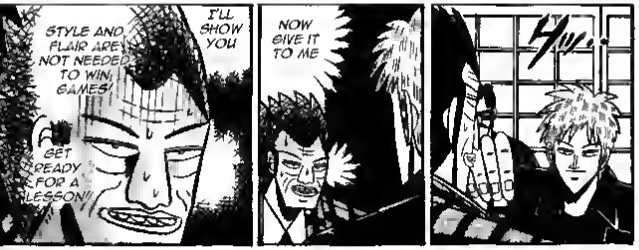



I'LL TAKE THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE PATH
AND GET THERE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE!
ALL I NEED TO FOCUS ON NOW IS MY SPEED!
IT'S ALL ABOUT SPEED!

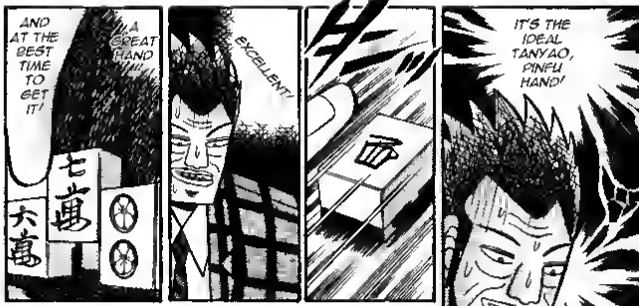
GH..!
MAKE THIS DRUNKARD WAKE THE HELL UP!
I'LL PASS HIM UP IN THE RACE!

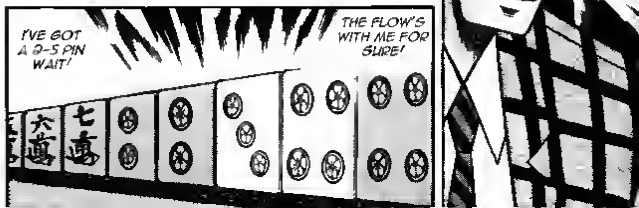
AH...!

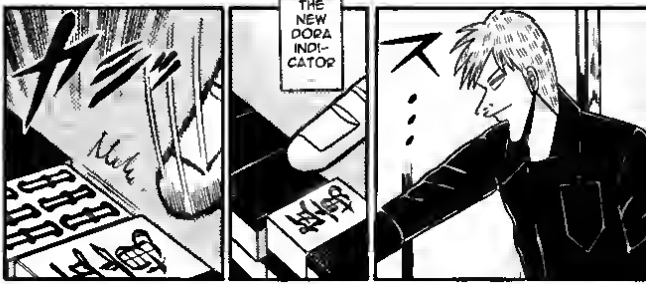

TENPAI!


STYLE AND FLAIR ARE NOT NEEDED TO WIN GAMES!
GET READY FOR A LESSON!!
I'LL SHOW YOU
NOW GIVE IT TO ME

HUH?
KAN
A TRUE PRO ALWAYS WINS IN SILENCE!
NORMAL CUTS WITH A NORMAL HAND CAN GET YOU THERE JUST AS EASILY. IN FACT, PROS LIKE MYSELF ALWAYS PLAY THAT WAY!!

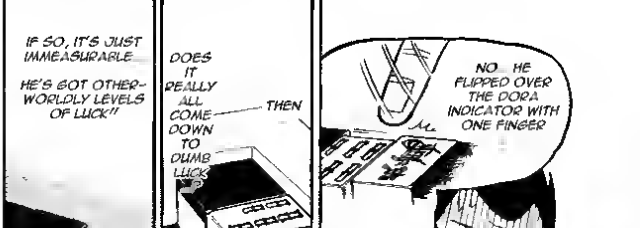

AND AT THE BEST TIME TO GET IT!
A GREAT HAND
EXCELLENT!
IT'S THE IDEAL TANYAO, PINFU HAND!


I'VE GOT A 2-5 PIN WAIT!
THE FLOW'S WITH ME FOR SURE!


THE NEW DORA INDI-CATOR

WHA ...?!

DORA 4?!
THE KAN HE JUST MADE IS ALL DORA TILES?!
THEN THEN THAT MEANS
THE NEW DORA INDICATOR IS A 2-SOU ?
ざわ..ざわ..
HOW CAN HE BE SO LUCKY?!
HOW DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING
DID HE CHEAT?
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS KID?!
HMM-HM-HM


IF SO, IT'S JUST IMMEASURABLE
HE'S GOT OTHER-WORLDLY LEVELS OF LUCK!!
DOES IT REALLY ALL COME DOWN TO DUMB LUCK
THEN
NO... HE FLIPPED OVER THE DORA INDICATOR WITH ONE FINGER
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE

LOOKS LIKE I WON'T NEED A SECOND ARROW
URARE
SO MUCH FOR THAT HANDICAP YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT
HMM-HM-HM

WITH JUST THIS FIRST ONE
I CAN SEND YOU TO YOUR UGLY GRAVE
HMM-HM-HM
AKAGI VOLUME 7 - FIN
アカギ5 完

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